



Brooklyn Paper Editor Gersh Kuntzman is used to covering Brooklyn, but this week was different. He headed 1,000 miles west to report on the presidential caucuses in Brooklyn, Iowa, population 1,300. "As I've always said, 'Nobody covers Brooklyn like The Brooklyn Paper.' Fortunately, I've never specified the state," said Kuntzman, who scored his first inter-Brooklyn exclusive when Mayor Loren Rickard, a Republican, confessed that he would break with his party to support Illinois Democratic Sen. Barack Obama. See Gersh's video reports from Brooklyn, Iowa, at BrooklynPaper.com.

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN VOTES

At Iowa caucus, our sister city backs Edwards and Huckabee; Obama tops Clinton statewide



By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

BROOKLYN, IOWA — Former Sen. John Edwards emerged a narrow winner in this rural town of 1,300, fighting off a last-minute visit by former President Bill Clinton and a strong surge by younger voters for Barack Obama in a caucus, only-in-Iowa caucus. But the great town of Brooklyn's voice was hushed by the greater Iowa, as Barack Obama

<http://ONLINE VIDEO at BrooklynPaper.com>

— still the choice of many here, including Mayor Loren Rickard — came out on top across the state.

In a much-more subdued process, Brooklyn Republicans made Baptist preacher, weight-loss guru and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee the winner of their vote.

"I'm very pleased with the result," said the GOP's caucus leader, Amanda Robinson, who supported Huckabee. "Despite all the money that Mitt Romney spent in Iowa, we showed him that Brooklyn votes are not for sale."

They weren't for sale, exactly, on the Democratic side — but they certainly were up for grabs. Unlike the Republicans, who gather, hear a quick speech from one supporter of each candidate, and then vote, the Democrats

See **BROOKLYN** page 5



Former President Bill Clinton campaigned for his wife in Brooklyn, Iowa, on Tuesday.

Pres. Clinton visits Brooklyn after mayor backs Obama

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

BROOKLYN, IOWA — Hillary Clinton's campaign sent its biggest gun to one of the state's smallest towns. Tuesday night in a last-minute bid to stave off defeat at Thursday's caucus here in Brooklyn, Iowa.

Former President Bill Clinton made a surprise stop in this town of 1,300 one day after The

Brooklyn Paper reported that Brooklyn Mayor Loren Rickard, a lifelong Republican, would abandon his party to caucus for Democratic Sen. — and Clinton rival — Barack Obama.

Just a coincidence? Probably. Earlier in the day, the 42nd president was in Amana, about 50 miles east of here, and Brooklyn is one of many rural towns between there and Clinton's final destination of the day, Des Moines.

See **BILL VISITS** page 5

Inside the Brooklyn caucus

THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman RAUCOUS CAUCUS

BROOKLYN, IOWA — Philip Ryan honestly didn't know what to do.

A strong supporter of Connecticut Sen. Christopher Dodd, Ryan suddenly found himself at a table with another Dodd man, Dennis Keefe — leaving the candidate with too few supporters to go forward and leaving the two men deciding with whom they should cast their lot. And then, the delight.

Many media outlets describe what happens at the Iowa caucuses as "tonetrading," as if supporters of non-viable candidates like Ryan are offered up favors or jobs in the cabinet if they come over to the Hillary Clinton or John Edwards table.

But there's no horse-trading, just the quiet (and not so quiet) art of persuasion.

With Ryan on the fence, Bev Rens, a strong supporter of Barack Obama rushed to the Dodd table and laid out the case for the Illinois senator, describing him as the only candidate who can clean up Washington and bring real change.

Ryan nodded appreciatively. Then Maggie Adams, who was so feisty with Hillary Clinton stickers, buttons and apparel that she looked like an inside-the-Beltway Christmas tree, came over and reminded Ryan

nothing in his car — and pages from the candidate's 60-page policy book. Mary Jo and Dave Collum were especially persuasive, practically massaging Ryan's heavy-lad bearing shoulders.

And that's how John Edwards got Philip Ryan's vote.

"I think he's an honest man," Ryan said.

Edwards was less lucky with Todd Linden, a supporter of

Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, and with Dodd-backer Keefe. Linden ended up with Obama, citing his fresh approach. He also cited a need for a strong whiskey. Keefe ended up with Clinton — citing her experience, even though he said he was "amused by her personality."

The Iowa caucuses are a source of great fascination, suspicion and downright ridicule for much of the nation — yet having been in the caucus room

See **INSIDE** on page 5



Dodd supporter Philip Ryan is wooed to Edwards' caucus by Dave and Mary Jo Collum.

80 IN '08

Paper predicts year's movers, shakers

We've looked (not so) fondly back on 2007, so now it's time to look ahead to the people, places and things that will be making news in 2008. Here's our report, ranked, David Letterman Top Ten style, in order of excitement:

80 The Park Slope Army, Park Slope: Work to turn this sprawling complex into a recreation center is almost completed — but the city still hasn't found anyone to run the place.

79 The 69th Street ferry, Bay Ridge: It will only take 22 minutes to get to Manhattan if this grassroots project started by Heather McCowan ever sets sail.

78 Jon Scieszka: This kid's book author (you remember him best from "The Stinky Cheese Man") is going big-time with a new book series and TV show called "Trucktown" — and they're based on people Scieszka met at Park Slope's PS 321. The kickoff event is on Jan. 10 at the school.

77 Carl Hum: The head of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is still

trying fill the big shoes of predecessor Ken Adams, but 2008 is going to be his year.

76 BCAT, Fort Greene: This is no longer your father's public access station. Watch for big changes at the station's Rockwell Place facility.

75 'C' is for Cupid, Park Slope: This dating service for people whose

lives have been affected by cancer is gaining momentum and members and lots of media attention.

74 Brad Lander, Park Slope: He's known from his work on the Pratt Area Community Council, but now he's spreading his wings and running for City Council. Lander is one of at least three people (so far) vying for Bill DeBlasio's Cob-

ble Hill and Park Slope seats thanks to term limits.

73 Myrtle Avenue, Fort Greene: The resurrection of Myrtle Avenue from "Murder Avenue" into a thriving (and increasingly pricey) commercial hot spot will continue, with more boutique shopping, more fancy restaurants, and throngs of new

tenants moving into luxury apartment buildings.

72 Carlo Scissura, Bensonhurst: Maybe this education policy expert wants to keep moving north — first from his law office in Kyker Heights to Borough Hall as Borough President Markowitz's counsel, and then, should Marty become Mayor...

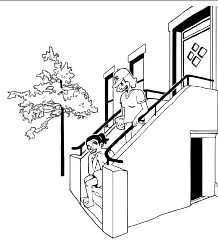
THE BROOKLYN PAPER 2008 COUNTDOWN CONTINUES ON PAGE 14

A cause for celebration!



Fireworks light the sky at Grand Army Plaza as Brooklyn celebrates the new year in style. Lutheran Medical Center delivered the borough's first baby of 2008 — Lily Chen (top photo) born to Mei Xia Dong, at 1:06 am on Jan. 1. The first delivery at New York Methodist was 7 lbs 13 oz Chelsey Hyde-Pelletier (bottom right) at 3:59 am; Long Island College Hospital's first baby — 6 lbs 9 oz Antonio Efferson (bottom left) was delivered at 2 pm. Meanwhile, the Polar Bears greeted the year at Coney Island.





THE stoop

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

Absinthe, the experience

Artists, writers and intellectuals in the 19th century glorified absinthe as a substance that stoked their creative fires with its hallucinogenic properties. Testosterone, governments and other hysterical types simultaneously demonized it as a drink so seductive that it laid waste to all who consumed it.

I'm a skeptical guy, so until I tried La Fée Verte (The Green Fairy, as they say in French), I didn't believe any of those allegations. But I'm also a reporter, and it's my responsibility to find the truth and tell it, even if that means getting drunk on the job.

As I was planning this column I reflected on absinthe's sordid history and all the great minds that loved the drink so well. Ernest Hemingway swilled it in Spain. Edgar Allan Poe drank it with his publisher in Philadelphia. Oscar Wilde developed a taste for absinthe during his most productive period. Van Gogh, Picasso and a whole slew of European artists known by their last names were so inspired by it that they made absinthe and its drinkers the subjects of their paintings. The mythical ambrosia captured the imaginations of many men who made their mark on history — they became immortal.

After the United States lifted its century-old ban on absinthe last month, I swigged over to Superfine to try it. I didn't see any green fairies or pink elephants, and I certainly wasn't laid to waste. But I did get wasted — so how can I call the experiment anything but a complete success?

When absinthe was banned in the United States, a bureaucrat with the U.S. Pure Food Board described it as "one of the worst enemies of man, and if we can keep the people of the United States from becoming slaves to this demon, we will do it."

I arrived at Superfine at about 8 pm and explained to the bartender that I was a professional on a mission, not an amateur in search of cheap (though, in the case of absinthe, \$13-per-shot) thrills. The gentleman to my left, a liquor distributor who sells the particular brand of absinthe served at Superfine, overheard my explanation and put my first drink on his tab. I asked my benefactor how the newly legalized absinthe was selling in Brooklyn. It's a mixed bag, he said; some places can't keep it in stock, others can't give it away.

The bartender poured about an ounce and a half of the translucent green liquid into a short glass, added a dash of simple syrup and a splash of cold water. When the water hit the absinthe, it turned cloudy and opaque. I picked up the glass, gave it a sniff and poured about half of it down the hatch without bothering to taste it.

Yikes! That was too bold — the stuff is 62 percent alcohol, compared to 40 percent in most booze. Mathematically, I understood the difference, but realistically I had no idea how mouthful of absinthe differed from a mouthful of bourbon until I swallowed. It was potent, stung my palate and its anise flavor was more intense than its aroma indicated it would be.

I proceeded to sip, just sip, the remaining absinthe. For my second round, I ordered up an absinthe martini. The bartender gave me a funny look, then poured the \$15 drink. The martini was much better than the warm absinthe mixed with sugar water. It was cold and went down easy, but even though the vodka outnumbered the absinthe three to one, licorice was still the dominant odor and flavor.

I ordered another absinthe, this one the same as the first, and a beer to wash it down with. By then, I was no longer in a sipping mood. I sat down again and had a gulp of absinthe followed by a gulp of beer. I started confessing secrets to a colleague whom I had brought along.

I know I took the subway home, but I don't remember the ride. What I do know is that I slept like a baby and dreamt of green fairies. Maybe there is something to those rumors about hallucinogenic effects after all.

Adam F. Hutton is a staff reporter at *The Brooklyn Paper*.

THE KITCHEN SINK
Our recent story about a "No Parking" space on Montague Street that is almost always filled with a car with a city permit is nothing compared to the permit abuse going on along Jay Street between Williamsburg and Tillary streets. There are so many illegally parked city cars there that the bus has to stop in the middle of the street. We'd say, "Call a cop!" but the problem is that most of the cars belonged to cops the last time we were there. ... Don't bid bad voyage to the **Waterfront Museum and Showboat Barge**. Museum Director **David Sharps** says he wants to call on other ports as proper docks become available around the metro area, but **Red Hook's Pier 44** will remain the home base. ... Boerum Hill Association members **Sue Wolfe** and **James Crow**, also two big game animals of the real-estate jungle, have become vice presidents at the Corecon Group in Brooklyn. Our congratulations are sincere; really, we're just trying to score an apartment.



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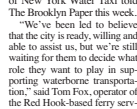
Jo Anne Simon
Democratic district leader
"New Year's or otherwise ... I want to see Brooklyn getting on a healthy diet of teamwork and collaboration."



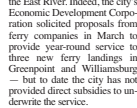
Buddy Scotto
Member of the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation
"Since we started in 1967, it's about time that we finally get the Gowanus Canal cleaned up and developed in a manner that relates to this community. The only way we can maintain a reasonably clean area around the canal is if we make deals with developers."



Greg O'Connell
Red Hook developer
"You know what's nice to see are the young families with their children using the waterfront and the park [in Red Hook]. When I look back 25 or 30 years and think what it used to be like, it's a good sign to see young families moving into the neighborhood. This year, I want to help make Red Hook even better for them."



Marky Markowitz
Borough President
"In 2008, I resolve to eat right and stay healthy so I can live to be as old as the Brooklyn Bridge, whose 125th birthday we Brooklynites will celebrate with great fanfare in May!"



Tucker Reed
Executive director of the DUMBO Improvement District (D-Cobble Hill)
"My resolution is to have the Manhattan Bridge Archway reopened to pedestrians."



Joan Millman
Assemblywoman (D-Cobble Hill)
"I need to find more ways in my everyday life to better protect the environment. Fewer plastic bags, more energy-efficient light bulbs. Everyone in my office has his or her own mug — no more paper cups — and we bring all our old stationary up to Albany to reuse."



Letitia James
Councilwoman (D-Downtown)
"To exercise more, and I'm committed to getting the armory in Bedford-Stuyvesant converted to an athletic center to improve schools in my district."



Carol Ma
Carroll Gardens resident
"It's so not sexy, but I resolve to get health insurance."



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Resolutions: We all make 'em, we all break 'em. But for those who have their resolutions printed in the newspaper, there's no way out. Here are some of the best we heard around the neighborhood.

—Interviews by Mike McLaughlin

City doesn't pay the ferryman

By **Adam F. Hutton**
The Brooklyn Paper

The abrupt shutdown of winter ferry travel between Manhattan and Williamsburg and DUMBO is a result of the city's failure to properly subsidize the service, the president of New York Water Taxi told *The Brooklyn Paper* this week.

"We've been led to believe that the city is ready, willing and able to assist us, but we're still waiting for them to decide what role they want to play in supporting waterfront transportation," said Tom Fox, operator of the Red Hook-based ferry service.

"We can't go it alone anymore. We've been shouldering it ourselves for a long time and the weight has become more than we can bear."

The Bloomberg administration's PlanNYC proposal calls for expanded ferry service across the East River. Indeed, the city's Economic Development Corporation solicited proposals from ferry companies in March to provide year-round service to three new ferry landings in Greenpoint and Williamsburg — but to date the city has not provided direct subsidies to underwrite the service.

Now, the cancellation of winter ferry service from existing ports of call at Schaefer Landing in Williamsburg and the Fulton Ferry dock in DUMBO has cast doubt on whether ferry service is viable at all.

Last week, Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) called on Mayor



A locked gate greets commuters at New York Water Taxi Schaefer Landing in Williamsburg.

Bloomberg to provide subsidies to companies who taxi commuters into Manhattan via the river.

"Mass transit just doesn't work on its own," Yassky said. "It requires government subsidies. The mayor has called for a big expansion in ferry service,

which is exactly right."

Fox said New York Water Taxi was forced to shut down its East River route from Jan. 1 to May 1 because the company would lose \$2,000 a day if it continued to shuttle commuters during the winter months. He cited rising fuel costs and declining

ridership during cold weather. The company also had to shut down the route in 2005 under similar circumstances, Fox said, but operated through the winter last year.

The Schaefer Landing condominiums — which opened last year — highlighted the ferry as a selling point for the Manhattan-bound commuters who can afford its luxury residences.

The loss of ferry service could have a major impact on the value of those apartments. "Many of our tenants were expecting a reliable water taxi service year-round," said Don Capocchia of BFC Partners, the developer. "It's a great service, but no transit service is truly viable unless it is totally reliable and that is obviously not the case here."

Money isn't the only loss here, commuters who use the ferry every day from Schaefer Landing loved the service. "Taking the ferry to work is so convenient for me," said Andrew Canning, an insurance broker in Downtown Manhattan as he rushed to the 8:30 am water taxi the other day.

"I'm very disappointed. I understand that they say they're losing money, but these condos haven't even been open for a year, so I don't see how they know they won't have riders this winter."

Until ferry service resumes, riders like Dan Piptone, a Wall Street stockbroker and Schaefer Landing resident, will face longer commutes.

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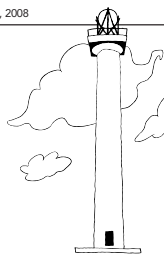
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Congress just doesn't get it!
Why isn't Congress moving to make English the official language of the United States?
Mike Ricatto President
BetterLeadershipAmerica.org



FORT GREENE-CLINTON HILL

Tell 'em what you want

If only. If only Fort Greene had a light-rail running down Myrtle Avenue. If only Fort Greene had one-bedroom apartments renting for \$1,000 a month. If only Fort Greene had a bowling alley. Okay, some "if only's" are more likely than others. A bank is one of the more likely ones. So are a bakery and a bookstore. But who cares what my "if only's" are? What's important are yours.

That's right. Somebody actually wants to hear what you, dear Fort Greeners, have to say. That somebody is the Fort Greene Association's retail committee. Its six members have put out a survey, dubbed "the Fort Greene Shopping Survey." To measure the wants and needs of the Fort Greene and Clinton Hill consumer.

"We're trying to reach out to every sub-sector of the neighborhood, not just the yuppie Farmers Market crowd, but also people at Ingersoll, Whitman, and the centers, students at St. Joe's and Pratt," said Myka Carroll of Barrio, one of the organizers and a Clinton Hill resident.

And this is no one-off. B.S. questionnaire destined for an unlabeled box in someone's dank basement. No, this is legit (all right, it seems legit). Once the surveying period ends on Jan. 15, the results will be tallied, and the Association will use those results to woo local business owners, would-be entrepreneurs, and even Manhattan business owners to our corner of the Borough of Kings. Meetings will be planned. Marketing materials will be sent.

"We'll analyze the results and put out marketing materials to those who already own businesses, and we're thinking about sponsoring a set of seminars for people who want to open a business," said Steve Sachs, who is not only del Barrio's comrade in surveying, but also the business-savvy publisher of Real Simple magazine, and a Fort Greene resident.

Thus far, several hundred of people have taken the survey, according to Sachs... including me.

It was so easy, even a Luddite could do it. First step: click on <http://fortgreenshopping.googlepages.com>. Second step, click on "Take the Fort Greene Shopping Survey." Third step, answer 10 easy questions, each of which asks, in one form or another, what sort of shop would you like to see in the neighborhood.

Personally, I'd love to see a bookstore. But perhaps my favorite idea mentioned in the survey is a bowling alley, like the hipster joint that just opened in Williamsburg, or even like that old-school relic in Sunset Park.

Just picture it: a Stella at Frank's, arpas at Luz, bowling in Clinton Hill.

I'm not the only one charmed by the idea. "When I heard of the bowling alley, I thought that was a great idea," said del Barrio. "What else is there that would bring the community together? That was the kind of out-of-the-box thinking we were hoping this would prompt."

For her part, del Barrio would also like to see a general interest bookstore and a kid-friendly cafe (you know, an alternative to the cooler-than-thou attitude at Smooch or the quiet chic at Bittersweet).

Or, as del Barrio put it, one where "you feel like you can take your kids and be noisy without someone on a laptop looking like she's going to shoot you."

For his part Sachs would like a good bakery and a hardware store.

"[But] It's not so much about what I'm looking for personally; our focus is on what the community is interested in," clarified Sachs.

So get to it, community!

For once, someone's asking, what do you want your neighborhood to be?

Dana Rubinstein is a staff writer for *The Brooklyn Paper*.

THE KITCHEN SINK

Our recent story about a local effort to create a **Park Slope Food Co-op** in Fort Greene has sparked some chatter. The *Brown Letter Show* on WNYC discussed it on Thursday, and **DK Holland**, the progenitor of the idea, said she's been approached by several interested parties. To chart the Co-op's course, check out its new blog, fortgreencoop.wordpress.com. We hear the Parks Department is considering adding to the new wealth of bike racks in the nabe by installing a couple of its own at **Fort Greene Park**. This is, apparently, the time to be a bike rider in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill. **Dermot Co.**, the bike-time firm that helped transform the **Williamsburg Savings Bank** building into fancy condos (and a firm that has sparked complaints from rent-stabilized tenants of other local buildings) has snapped up two more rent stabilized buildings in Fort Greene, at 260 and 262 St. James Pl., between Fulton Street and Atlantic Avenue. Dermot said \$4.1 million for the two five-story, 20-unit buildings. Do we hear more complaints coming down the pipeline? **E-mail us at Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com.**

RESOLUTIONS FOR 2008



Evan Thies
Community Board 1 member and City Council Candidate

"I resolve to marry Beth Elena Litstrom Ivin — my smart, beautiful partner for the last three years who makes every day of my life better. Let's hope she says 'yes' by the time this runs in the paper!"



Marty Markowitz
Borough President

"In 2008, I resolve to eat right and stay healthy so I can live to be as old as the Brooklyn Bridge, whose 125th birthday we Brooklynites will celebrate with great fanfare in May!"

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— Interviews by Mike McLaughlin



DK Holland
Fort Greene activist

"To be in more meaningful contact with the people I care about. I'm not good on the phone and great in writing, and I need to get better at that."



Daniel Goldstein
Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn

"To get going on all of the home improvement projects I've been planning, [like] some work in the bathroom, some shelving, that sort of thing."



David Yassky
Councilman (D-Clinton Hill)

"To pass my 'smart development' bill to make sure that new development comes with transportation planning and infrastructure to support it. And I also want to pass my bio-fuel bill that will reduce pollution from heating oil."



Mandy Kalajian
Executive director of the Williamsburg Gallery Association

"My new year's resolution: To direct Brooklyn's first art fair in '08."



Rev. Daniel Meeter
Old First Reformed Church

"First, to stop being late at my therapist. Second, to be nicer about the Bronx. Third, to stop gossiping."

Expanding 'Union'

Market now coming to Fort Greene

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

It's official. Union Market will open a third outlet — in Fort Greene — by summer.

Marko Lalic, co-owner of the high-end Park Slope grocery, confirmed the long circulating rumor that he and his two partners are bringing their beloved gourmet supermarket to the corner of Fulton Street and Rockwell Place, in the old digs of a dollar store.

Times, and neighborhoods, change. Where once residents shopped for 99-cent bargains, now they'll shop for Grayre and prosciutto di Parma. There will also be a good produce section, a much-desired commodity in the neighborhood.

This will be the second expansion in one year for the Park Slope market, on Union Street and Sixth Avenue. This summer, the proprietors revealed they were opening a shop in the South Slope, on Seventh Avenue, between 12th and 13th streets.

The G train earns a D+

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The G-train is pint-size, infrequent and doesn't go to Manhattan — no wonder riders gave it the one of the worst report card grades in the city.

Thousands of straphangers filled out surveys for the beleaguered, outer-borough line and handed the G train an ugly D+, tying it for worst with four other lines, including Brooklyn's own C train and the Franklin Avenue shuttle.

The worst offense, according to respondents, was the lengthy wait times, which earned the G a nearly failing D-minus.

"In general, they're on schedule," said rider Caroline Papocchia, who lives in Clinton Hill, where the G train is a lifeline (though one that doesn't go to the city). "But, the thing is, the



The hapless G: the worst subway line in the city?

schedule is infrequent."

As the clock approaches the wee hours of the night that schedule gets even worse.

"If it's after 11 pm, I don't even ride it," said Caitlin Duffy, who prefers a longer walk home from the C train to Fort Greene

rather than transfer at Hoyt-Schermerhorn to the G, which is actually closer to her home.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority says it will increase the number of G trains running if — and this is a big IF — new fares generate enough money.

"Fort Greene is pretty similar to the South Slope, another underserved neighborhood," said Lalic. "We feel the store would be a good fit."

Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene), agreed.

"Obviously, we need some alternatives some of the existing markets in the district," said James. "A number of constituents were going to Park Slope. So I'm glad that Union Market is coming to the corner of Fort Greene. And the owners have indicated to me they're hiring some local residents."

James's excitement was echoed by Fort Greene resident Philip Kellogg.

"There's definitely a need for terrific meat and fish and produce and bread and cheese and all that," he said.

"People have been screaming about it for as long as I've been here, so I think it's terrific," he added.

The increased service would slash the amount of time between trains by four to seven minutes on weekday evenings, and cut two to four minutes from the weekend waits.

Transit advocates think there's no reason why the transit agency — which said budget shortfalls required a fare hike — can't come up with the \$46 million a year it would take to improve G-train service.

"I spoke with the MTA [on Wednesday] and they sounded optimistic," said Paul Nelson, chief of staff for Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Cobble Hill).

If the transit authority is strapped for cash, Nelson added, "We'll work with them to find the money [in Albany]."

Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) said a promise isn't good enough this time.

"As Brooklyn becomes increasingly popular, the MTA must be proactive about adding service to accommodate growth," DeBlasio said.

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Mike Ricatto President

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Cops nab serial bodega bandit

By Adam F. Hutton, Mike McLaughlin and Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

76th Precinct

A repeat-robbor of 24-hour delis on Court Street got caught because he struck too frequently.

Police arrested a 30-year-old suspect on Dec. 19 and charged him with sticking up several businesses in the last month. The suspect was actually nabbed moments after he robbed a deli at 3:40 a.m. between Amity and Congress streets, cops said.

Police caught their man because the perp allegedly had just attempted to rob another late-night grocery between De-graw and Sackett streets.

A quick-thinking clerk thwarted the suspect because he recognized him from a previous robbery in November. Rather than hand over the cash, he shut the cash register and dialed 911.

Tongue tied

A man tried to avoid getting robbed on Smith Street on Dec. 22 by telling the three men who demanded his money that he didn't speak English, but they showed no mercy.

The 34-year-old victim, who actually does speak English, was knocked to the ground, punched and kicked at the corner of Baltic Streets at 3:30 a.m. before the robbers made off with the \$20 in his wallet.

Police say the victim went to Long Island College Hospital, under his own power, for treatment.

Teen on teen

A 17-year-old robbed a 14-year-old boy on Dec. 18 at the corner of Henry and Sackett streets.

The older teen followed the younger one down the street at 5:40 p.m. and yelled: "Gimme your money! Gimme your money!" The victim satisfied the robber by forking over \$10.

Benz burgled

A thief stole several items from a man's unlocked Mercedes Benz on



Cadman car crash

By Adam F. Hutton
The Brooklyn Paper

A woman who was mowed down by a delivery cab as she headed to Brooklyn Federal Court to become an American citizen on Dec. 27 came out of a coma this week and is expected to make a full recovery.

The black Lincoln Town Car hit Shantaur Raghunanan on Cadman Plaza West at about 7:30 a.m. after the driver lost control.

The car struck a tree in the traffic median and hoped the curb before smash-

ing into the 46-year-old Queens woman and coming to rest under a scaffolding at the apartment tower being repaired at the corner of Middle Street.

Raghunanan was taken to Bellevue Hospital where she remained in a coma and in critical condition until this week.

She has now regained consciousness and was upgraded to fair condition. A hospital spokesman said she was expected to recover from her injuries.

The cab driver, Robert Khananyev, 52, of Brooklyn, passed a breathalyzer test at the scene and was not issued any violation, police said.

Columbia streets. Once subdued, the victim handed over her Sidekick cell phone, cops said.

84th Precinct

Smooth thieves

Police are looking for three men who stole more than \$1,600 worth of lotion, cough medicine and eye drops from a drug store on Court Street on Dec. 29.

The bandits were caught on video stealing 88 bottles of lotion, 28 boxes of cold and cough medicine and 24 bottles

Police blotter

of Visine from the store, which is at the corner of Court and Jendman streets. If caught, the well-moisturized men will face felony charges because the theft was more than \$1,000.

Brutal beating

A woman barely escaped with her life when several thugs threw her head first into a mailbox, beat and kicked her and then put a knife to her throat to steal her wallet and earrings on Dec. 23.

The victim escaped the 4 a.m. attack when the hoodlums ran off after spotting a police car speeding to the corner of Jay and Chapel streets, where the 20-year-old woman was bleeding on the sidewalk.

Purse punch

A 36-year-old woman told police that a man punched her in the face and stole her purse as she was walking down the sidewalk near Metrotech Center on Dec. 28.

The robber, who attacked the woman at the corner of Adams and Willoughby streets, got away with \$829 and her school safety ID badge.

Watch your bag

A quick-moving thief stole a woman's handbag as she was trying on shoes on the Fulton Mall on New Year's Eve.

The 23-year-old victim told police she was entering a pair of shoes that she had just picked out when she noticed that her purse was missing.

The thief got \$60 cash, a \$150 Sprint cell phone, a \$20 wallet and an \$80 purse.

Jewel heist

An employee at a Fulton Mall jewelry store was arrested on New Year's Eve for stealing almost \$10,000 from the nightly deposit bags.

The 26-year-old suspect had \$4,480 in stolen cash on her when the cops picked her up in the store's office. She allegedly stole \$9,800 from the deposit bags on at least two occasions beginning on Dec. 21.

DUMBO Xmas Tree solar power pack stolen

By Adam F. Hutton
The Brooklyn Paper

To the Grinch who stole Christmas: The joke is on you.

A thief stole one of the dozen or so solar panels that was powering the Christmas lights in DUMBO's Pearl Street triangle a few days after they were installed in early December (see story, 13).

But the Grinch quickly learned that this crime doesn't pay: the sun-junk-ered battery pack can't really be used for anything else, said Bill Vitello, director of operations for the DUMBO Improvement District.

The battery inside there only has as much juice as a regular D-cell," Vitello said. "And he had to rip half a dozen wires out of the box to get it loose. So by the time he solders in new wires

and runs those to something else, it won't be able to power much, and it will have been a huge pain."

"Hopefully word will get out to the criminally minded that it's not worth the effort."

The Improvement District invested more than \$1,000 in 15 environmentally friendly power generators to light its holiday decorations this year.

Tucker Reed, the Improvement District's executive director, says the theft hasn't given him the holiday blues. "That's the risk you take when you leave things out in a public space," Reed said.

"If we make it through the holiday season and only lose one, that's pretty good."

Vitello was more graphic: "I hope the guy sticks that solar panel where the sun don't shine."

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED APARTMENTS FOR RENT
Pratt Area Community Council is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for 38 affordable housing rental apartments now under construction at 15 Quincy Street in the Clinton Hill section of Brooklyn. This building is being constructed through the Inclusionary Affordable Housing Program of the City of New York's Department of Housing Preservation and Development. The size, rent and targeted income distribution for the 38 apartments are as follows:

Apartments Available	Apartment Size	Household Size	Monthly Rent *	Total Annual Income Range ** Minimum - Maximum
4	Studio	1	\$560	\$22,400 - \$27,815
34	1 Bedroom	1	\$599	\$23,960 - \$29,588
		2	\$599	\$23,960 - \$29,588

* Monthly rent includes gas for cooking.
** Income guidelines subject to change.

Qualified applicants will be required to meet income and family size guidelines and additional selection criteria. Applications may be requested in 3 ways: 1) By mail, by writing to: Quincy 15, c/o PACC, 201 Dekalb Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205. Please include a self-addressed envelope with your request. 2) By internet: you can download an application from our website: www.prattarea.org. click 'Available Affordable Homes and Apartments'. 3) In person: you can stop by our offices at 201 Dekalb Avenue or 1224 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn. Completed applications must be returned by regular mail only (no priority, certified, registered, express or overnight mail will be accepted) to a post office box number, or its equivalent, that will be listed with the application, and must be postmarked by February 19, 2008. Applications postmarked after February 19, 2008 will be set aside for possible future consideration. Applications will be selected by lottery; applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Preference will be given to New York City residents. Current and eligible residents of Brooklyn Community Board 2 will receive preference for 50% of the units. Eligible households that include persons with mobility impairments will receive preference for 5% of the units; eligible households that include persons with visual and/or hearing impairments will receive preference for 2% of the units; and eligible City of New York Municipal Employees will receive a 5% preference.

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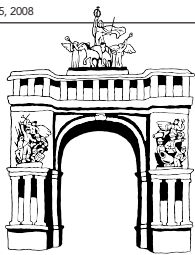
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THE STOOP

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New Year's pre-memories

Every time I pass by the Barnes & Noble on Seventh Avenue, I remember how I met my boyfriend there. Not the most romantic of meeting spots — I might have preferred the park, or maybe something a more literary like at a reading at the Old Stone House — but nonetheless it was our meeting place and so lovely a moment that the store is inextricably connected to our relationship in my memory.

After 14 years of living here, Park Slope is full of place memories for me — spots that are inextricably attached to a specific event. Around the New Year, I find myself thinking about them even more often.

For my daughter, an intense memory-provoking spot is the corner of Garfield Place and Seventh Avenue. This is where her stepmother got a bloody nose so intense that she needed to be rushed via ambulance to Methodist Hospital. Fortunately, it turned out to be nothing, but for my daughter it isn't possible to walk past the spot without visions of the blood-stained sidewalk flaring up. This incident was her very own "Nightmare on Garfield Place," and it plays in her brain with cinematic color.

I just wish the incident had happened on a spot we don't go past several times a day. Smartmouth columnist, Louise Crawford, can't walk anywhere in the Slope without remembering something — her own memories and everyone else's! But one particular section of Eighth Avenue near Ninth Street always evokes traumatic memories of her daughter getting sewn up for one injury or another.

First there was the vicious gate at the Ninth Street playground that attacked her child unprovoked early one evening. That event, which put a nice rip in her forehead, also involved scads of blood and a trip to Methodist.

A bit further up Eighth Avenue is the plastic surgery they visited to repair another nasty facial gash in hopes that his expert stitches could prevent a permanent scar on her face.

Another friend thinks about his wedding every time he rides his bike past the Montauk Club, where it took place. For him, the building is bittersweet — he cherishes the memories of his nuptials, but can't help feeling that the palazzo-style building is a shadow of its Gilded Age self.

A member of my writing group, playwright Rosemary Moore, can't pass the Ninth Street library without remembering her then 3-year-old twin daughters' response to a firefighter's earnest safety talk.

"What is the first thing you do before getting into a hot bathtub?" he asked.

"Get naked!" they both shouted at the same time.

That story reminds me of the time friends of mine who live on Park Place had a big christening party for their daughter in their apartment.

"Everyone gather together for the blessing," said Alyssa.

The priest opened his mouth and began to intone. "We are here today to celebrate the birth of Maggie Rose..." when my then 2-year-old daughter announced loudly to the room, "I have to go potty right now."

Seeing their building on the corner of Vanderbilt always makes me chuckle.

There are place memories that all of us who live in Park Slope share. Many of us walk past the corner of Sterling and Seventh Avenue and think about the United Airlines jet that crashed there back in the 1960s. Most of us can't walk past Squall One or Ladder 12 without thinking about 9-11. A lot of us walk past the Park Slope Food Co-op and automatically think of a dozen or so insane or annoying moments that took place there (even the non-members think that!).

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RESOLUTIONS FOR 2008



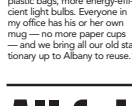
Rev. Daniel Meeter
Old First Reformed Church

"First, to stop being late at my therapist's. Second, to be nicer about the Bronx. Third, to stop gossiping."



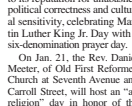
Marty Markowitz
Borough President

"In 2008, I resolve to eat right and stay healthy so I can live to be as old as the Brooklyn Bridge, whose 125th birthday we Brooklynites will celebrate with great fanfare in May!"



Letitia James
Councilwoman (D-Downtown)

"To exercise more, and I'm committed to getting the army in Bedford-Stuyvesant converted to an athletic center and to improving schools in my district."



Ken Freeman
President, Park Slope Civic Council

"To get in shape. Though, I don't really think I'll succeed until my kids are bigger."



Joan Millman
Assemblywoman

"I need to find more ways in my everyday life to better protect the environment. Fewer plastic bags, more energy-efficient light bulbs. Everyone in my office has his or her own mug — no more paper cups — and we bring all our old stationary up to Albany to reuse."



Daniel Goldstein
Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn

"To get going on all of the home improvement projects I've been planning, (like) some work in the bathroom, some shelving, that sort of thing."



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"To bring more Beth Elohim members to Israel."



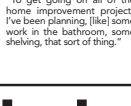
Jo Anne Simon
Democratic district leader

"New Year's or otherwise... I want to see Brooklyn getting on a healthy diet of teamwork and collaboration."



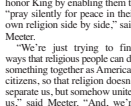
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(Synaplex) is a community building initiative of STAR (Synagogue Training and Resource) in partnership with the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy.



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A writer and parenting expert who lives in Park Slope.

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E-mail us at Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com.

Resolutions: We all make 'em, we all break 'em. But for those who have their resolutions printed in the newspaper, there's no way out. Here are some of the best we heard around the neighborhood.

—Interviews by **Mike McLaughlin**



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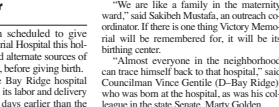
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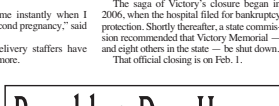
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The demise of Park Slope's Donut



Loyal customers line the counter for one final meal on the closing day of Donut Coffee Shop.

By Robert Weinstein
for The Brooklyn Paper

After 32 years of slinging omelets, pancakes, home-fries, donuts and pouring mug upon mug of affordable coffee, the Foops family has finally shut down its beloved old-school diner, the Donut Coffee Shop on Fifth Avenue.

"Most of the places that made the neighborhood distinctive to longtime residents are disappearing," one customer who didn't want his name used told owner Chris Foops, who has been running the store for 10 years, succeeding his father, Nick.

That nameless customer wasn't the only one to see the donut diner go. All day



Donut Coffee Shop is closing to allow neighbor Associated to expand.

long on Friday, regulars stopped by to sit at the counter for one last cup of joe and plenty of memories.

"Chris gave me my first cup of coffee," said Steven LaPolito, who has lived around the corner from the

shop since 1977.

His defining moment in the shop came not long afterwards when Nick recognized him right away.

"Three eggs over, whole wheat, home fries," he said to me," LaPolito said. "This place had roots. It dug in."

Another customer who had been coming to the shop even before the Foopses bought it stuck his head in the door and screamed in, "You're the best."

Meanwhile, others took to the Internet to lament the loss to the neighborhood. "I am sad, sad, sad that an-

other nice old place with simple foods and no \$4 lattes, is closing," one anonymous blogger wrote on Brooklynometry. "All I can say is there goes the neighborhood."

But Donut Coffee Shop was more than just a respite from the Tea Lounges, the CoCo Bars, the Al Di Las of Park Slope. For LaPolito, Donut wasn't merely a cheap diner, but a place that connected him to the neighborhood — at least the one in his memories.

Another customer, a Brooklyn psychologist who had been a regular for seven years, emphasized with LaPolito, but noted the number of new shops that have been able to root out their own niches, she discussed how difficult it is



Effie Pahos pours a final cup of Joe.

for communities to have growth and keep the businesses that make them unique. "It's what makes 'gentrification' a bad word," she said. Perhaps, but gentrification is not the villain here. The Donut Shop — and its neigh-

bor, the pan-Latino restaurant Beso — is not closing because of a rent hike or a loss of clientele, but because it being absorbed into the Associated grocery store as part of an expansion of that hardly upscale food market.

Unwelcome guest visits hotel near the Gowanus

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

76th Precinct

The Comfort Inn near the Gowanus Canal was broken into on Dec. 26 — and the thief stole some atypical goods.

At around 5 p.m., an employee of the hotel, which is on Butler

Street between Third Avenue and Nevins Street, noticed that two cases of bottled water, linens and a hand truck, worth \$650 total, had been stolen from one of the hotel's upper floors.

The perpetrator had apparently forced his way into the building through a side entrance, which had been damaged.

POLICE BLOTTER

Left panting

Ten pairs of pants walked out of a clothing store on President Street on two legs on Dec. 24.

A group of five men in their teens or early 20s entered the boutique, which is between Fifth and Sixth avenues, around 12:45 p.m. on Christmas Eve. While one of the young men distracted the clerk, another shovelled 10 pairs of pants, each worth \$200, into a plastic bag. The worker caught a glimpse of this, but the shoplifter fled the store before the grand larceny could be stopped.

Auto holdup

Three employees of a Fourth Avenue auto shop were robbed at gunpoint on Dec. 27.

A man entered the store, near Ninth Street, at 8:30 a.m., brandishing a firearm and demanding to know "Where is the money?" He stole the personal valuables of the two employees and a manager, and took the cash from the store's safe, pilfering more than \$2,700, plus cell phones and credit cards.

Hood watch

A group of bystanders encircled a woman who had tried to snatch a pocketbook from another lady and prevented the crook from getting away on Dec. 29.

The 56-year-old victim was approached from behind on the corner of Lincoln Place and Plaza Street West by the 20-year-old perpetrator, who yanked at her purse. In the ensuing struggle, the victim fell to the ground and suffered minor injuries.

After being knocked down, the victim yelled for help. Nearby people sprang into action and surrounded the culprit until police made the arrest.

Come right in

An open door made it easy for someone to burglarize a Lincoln Place apartment on Dec. 28.

A man left his apartment, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, for three hours, but did

not close his front door, allowing the thief easy access to \$400, a necklace and a fancy laptop.

Back door man

A First Street house was burglarized through an unlocked back door between Dec. 26 and Dec. 27.

A 34-year-old woman left her home with everything in place around 8 p.m. When she returned the next day at 3 p.m., she discovered that someone had stolen her digital camera and cellphone through the unlocked rear entrance, which is between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

Major pieces of the interior and exterior of a car parked on 13th Street were stolen between Dec. 24 and Dec. 26.

Sometime between 8:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 1:45 p.m. on Boxing Day, thieves walked away with the rear lights, rims, radio, speakers, amp, intake, car battery and even the front hood from a 21-year-old woman's car, which had been parked between Second and Third avenues. They also took her baby stroller.

The stolen car parts and stroller were worth \$2,500.

Monte's hosts a family

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

As we reported last week, Monte's Venetian Room isn't the oldest Italian restaurant in Brooklyn — but it was certainly old enough for a venerable Italian-American family that wanted to commemorate the centennial of its patriarch's arrival in America.

About 50 members of the DeRufo clan ate, drank and made merry at the 101-year-old restaurant last Sunday to celebrate the late Franco DeRufo's migration to the United States one hundred years ago last month.

"We picked Monte's because it was one block from where he was born," said RoseAnn DeRufo, Franco's granddaughter. Franco first resided on President Street and Third Avenue in 1907, near the Italian restaurant on Carroll Street, which opened the year before.

"It's quite a coincidence that he lived right around the block and arrived one year after we opened," said RoseAnn, who was born after his death.

RoseAnn, who was raised in Carroll Gardens, but now lives in Riverdale, has been piecing the fragments together.

She found a copy of his Italian passport as well as the manifest from the ship that transported him to America — the Lusitania! — and learned that



Monte's Venetian Room on Carroll Street claims to be the oldest Italian restaurant in Brooklyn.

Like many of his generation, Franco was a longshoreman at Bush Terminal. He died prematurely at age 50 in 1940, and many of the details of his life are not known, especially before he landed at Ellis Island and moved to Brooklyn.

"The story is this: My grandfather was an orphan and the family never knew much about him," said RoseAnn, who was born after his death.

RoseAnn, who was raised in Carroll Gardens, but now lives in Riverdale, has been piecing the fragments together.

She found a copy of his Italian passport as well as the manifest from the ship that transported him to America — the Lusitania! — and learned that

he arrived in New York knowing no one and with only \$12 to his name (which was spelled DeRufo on the manifest, by the way).

"Each little piece of information has led to another piece of information."

Her next hope is to hear from the orphanage near Naples that raised Franco.

In spite of the holes in his record, one of Franco's traditions that had passed down through the generations was revived on Sunday.

Whenever the family had guests, "He always put a couple of drops of red wine on the white tablecloth to make sure nobody worried about spilling anything," said RoseAnn.

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DUMBO_come see what they see

City doesn't pay the ferryman

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"We've been led to believe that the city is ready, willing and able to assist us, but we're still waiting for them to decide what role they want to play in supporting waterborne transportation," said Tom Fox, operator of the Red Hook-based ferry service.

"We can't go it alone anymore. We've been shouldering it ourselves for a long time and the weight has become more than we can bear."

The Bloomberg administration's PlanNYC proposal calls for expanded ferry service across the East River. Indeed, the city's Economic Development Corporation solicited proposals from ferry companies in March to provide year-round service to three new ferry landings in Greenpoint and Williamsburg — but to date the city has not provided direct subsidies to underwrite the service.

Now, the cancellation of winter ferry service from existing ports of call at Schaefer Landing in Williamsburg and the Fulton Ferry dock in DUMBO has cast doubt on whether ferry service is viable at all.

Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) called on Mayor Bloomberg to provide subsidies to companies who taxi commuters into Manhattan via the river.

"Mass transit just doesn't work on its own," Yassky said. "It requires government subsidies. The mayor has called for a big expansion in ferry service, which is exactly right."

Fox said New York Water Taxi was forced to shut down its East River route from Jan. 1 to May 1 because the company would lose \$2,000 a day if it continued to shuttle commuters during the winter months. He cited rising fuel costs and declining ridership during cold weather.

The company also had to shut down the route in 2005 under similar circumstances, Fox said, but operated through the winter last year.

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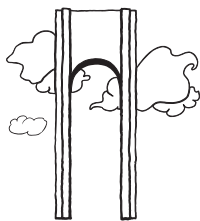
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THE STOOP

BAY RIDGE-BENSONHURST DYKER HEIGHTS BATH BEACH

Is Ridge out of business?

Now that the people of Bay Ridge are done opening their presents, maybe they can open some new stores. A casual walk along Third and Fifth avenues reveals that more than 30 storefronts are closed and empty.

And some of them have been like this for well over a year! In a neighborhood with three business improvement districts, 30-plus closed stores is not acceptable.

What can you do, said Basil Capetanakis, local real estate broker and vice president of the Fifth Avenue BID? "Business, no matter where you go, has slowed down."

Of course, there is still plenty of quality establishments in Bay Ridge that are vibrant with customers and sales.

Some businesses have been around for generations — at least one, Kruckow's Shoes on Fifth Avenue between 78th and 79th streets, has just celebrated its 100th anniversary! And some newer businesses — like Third Avenue's Little Cupcake Bake Shop and the Spa & Wellness Center — have even taken creative environmentally friendly initiatives to "go green" with their products and source of electricity.

According to Capetanakis, right now Bay Ridge is ahead of the game compared to years ago — when there were 30 empty storefronts on Fifth Avenue alone!

"It was scary," says Capetanakis. "But a time when the national economy is showing signs of strain and Brooklyn's centers of entertainment and shopping are re-defining themselves, one wonders if a new bogeyman is around the corner."

"Now you've got Smith Street and Park Slope to compete with," says long-time Bay Ridge business owner Barry O'Donovan, who recently sold Henry Grattan's on Third Avenue between 88th and 89th streets to start a business venture in New Jersey. "Bay Ridge doesn't have the foot traffic it used to."

Capetanakis says that the amount of business turnover has been relatively steady in the past few years, while admitting that in some cases rents might be too high to encourage new businesses from starting up. Still, he is confident that the BIDs can improve the situation by advertising more and cleaning up the streets.

Closed-down and long-empty stores hurt everyone. It means reduced tax revenue for the government, less rent for building owners, fewer jobs for workers, and fewer choices for consumers.

And they're ugly, too.

Hopefully, 2008 will see more of Bay Ridge open for business. We can't afford the alternative.

Joe Jordan is a freelance writer and third-generation Bay Ridger.

THE KITCHEN SINK

Wow, our item a few weeks ago about state Sen. Marty Golden aide John Quaglinone possibly throwing his hat in the next city council race as a Republican contender really got tongues wagging in Bay Ridge. One reader claimed that Quaglinone "will not get Republican support" since he is registered with the Conservatives, not the GOP. When asked for comment, the famed John Q said, "Many successful Republican candidates have received the support of the Conservative Party, so why can't a Conservative receive the support of the Republican Party? If I decide to run for any elective office, it is about service to our neighborhood and not to a party." Of course, we've been singing their praises for years! ... What the E!? Local historian Larry Steller just published an expanded second edition of his "By the El — Third Avenue and Its El at Mid-Century," which is full of great stories and photos of New York City's bygone subways of the sky. ... It's been decades since the last one, but Bay Ridge just had one of its own ordained as a Roman Catholic priest last weekend. Our pal **Dermot Roache**, 36, a parishioner at St. Anselm and former teacher at IS 278, will be a missionary in Kenya. ... Muchfest '08 — Better than ever! The Parks and Sanitation departments invite you to drop off the ol' tamenbaum at either Owl's Head Park on 69th Street or Shore Road Park on 79th Street on Jan. 5 and 6 between 10 am and noon. Otherwise, leave the tree on your curb between Jan 3 and 16. Just don't forget to take off the decorations.

Email us at Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com.

Congress just doesn't get it!

Why isn't Congress moving to make English the official language of the United States?

Mike Ricatto President

BetterLeadershipAmerica.org

RESOLUTIONS FOR 2008



Mark Brown
Actor, Bay Ridge

"Many marathoner Melisa Christian, keep my marriage to Melisa secret from my wife, use 'kajagoo' as an adjective, stop referring to my mother-in-law as 'that old battle-axe from Hackensack,' correctly use 'lay' and 'lie,' have another mid-life crisis, vote several times in the presidential election, start drinking before noon, and lose 20 pounds."



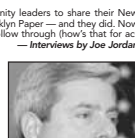
Vito Fossella
Congressman (R-Bay Ridge)

"Patience and persistence in the War on Terrorism and bringing our troops home from Afghanistan and Iraq as quickly and safely as possible. Locally, I would like to see continued success in our efforts to improve the Verrazano Bridge construction project and also preserving the emergency room and acute care services at Victory Hospital."



Vincent Gentile
Councilman (D-Bay Ridge)

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Marty Markowitz
Borough President

"I resolve to eat right and stay healthy so I can live to be as old as the Brooklyn Bridge, whose 125th birthday we Brooklynites will celebrate with great fanfare in May!"



Howard Feuer
District manager of Community Board 11

"To work more closely with elected officials to make our community even better next year."



Joan Millman
Assemblywoman (D-Bay Ridge)

"I need to find more ways in my everyday life to better protect the environment. Fewer plastic bags, more energy-efficient light bulbs."



Marty Golden
State Sen. (R-Bay Ridge)

"I look forward to seeing ground broken on a variety of school expansion, transportation and parks projects. I look forward to a successful legislative session in Albany that will reduce taxes, protect our citizens, and that continues to lead New York State in the right direction for the future."



Steve Harrison
Bay Ridge lawyer

"I resolve to continue my strong support of the American troops and, on a personal level, run another marathon."

No room at this inn

Victory Memorial closes maternity unit

By **Loren Bonner**

For The Brooklyn Paper

Dozens of women scheduled to give birth at Victory Memorial Hospital this holiday season had to find alternate sources of care weeks even days, before giving birth. Without a staff, the Bay Ridge hospital prematurely shut down its labor and delivery unit last Friday — 10 days earlier than the original Dec. 31 date that was listed on employees' termination letters.

Residents of Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights and Bensonhurst are already worried about Victory's projected Feb. 1 closing date.

But the closing of the labor and delivery unit brings that harsh reality into sharper focus. The Department of Health has yet to present a contingency plan to replace the century-old institution, though the emergency room will remain open a while longer, state officials have said.

"It's outrageous to put the burden on the community and hospital to find alternatives," said Nisha Agarwal, staff attorney for New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.

About 40 women expected to deliver at Victory were notified in writing that they should deliver at Brooklyn Hospital Center in Fort Greene, at least an hour away by car.

Lillie Mae Micles is one of these women. Although her delivery due date isn't until April, she said she would do anything to keep the hospital open because she was so impressed with the nursery and staff.

"They recognized me instantly when I came back with my second pregnancy," said Micles.

Mary labor and delivery staffers have been there 30 years



Xia Chen will have to travel about an hour from Victory Memorial Hospital to Dyker Heights to Brooklyn Hospital in Fort Greene to give birth to her baby after Victory closed its maternity ward on Dec. 26.

or more.

"We are like a family in the maternity ward," said Sakibeh Mustafa, an outreach coordinator. If there is one thing Victory Memorial will be remembered for, it will be its birthing center.

"Almost everyone in the neighborhood can trace himself back to that hospital," said Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge), who was born at the hospital, as was his colleague in the

state Senate, Marty Golden.

"In many ways, Victory was seen as the 'Baby Hospital,'" Gentile said.

Gentile said the closing of the maternity ward would make it tougher for hospital supporters to keep the ER open beyond June, when the hospital loses its license.

"If the perception is that everything is shutting down over there, it'll be hard to hold onto the emergency room," he said.

The saga of Victory's closure

began in 2006, when the hospital filed for bankruptcy protection. Shortly thereafter, a state commission recommended that Victory Memorial — and eight others in the state — be shut down.

That official closing is on Feb. 1. Meanwhile, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and Concerned Citizens of Southwest Brooklyn have been trying to work with the Department of Health to find a viable solution for the community's health care needs.

Hospital advocates did propose a plan that worked for the community — a takeover by SUNY Downstate Medical Center — but it was rejected by the state in November as doing little to shore up Victory's shaky finances.

Brooklyn Hospital Center has been doing its best to accommodate these new arrivals, giving the women and their families tours of the maternity ward and promising vouchers for taxis if they can't make it by car.

But these soon-to-be mothers have depended on Victory Memorial for much more than adequate care for their newborn babies. Mustafa said many of the women who don't know English have relied on the translation services Victory Memorial has provided.

For others, it's better care. Micles, who lives in Coney Island, happily drives a longer distance to Victory Memorial because she prefers it over Coney Island Hospital.

Since malpractice lawsuits are so high in this field of medicine, it's difficult to find a hospital with a woman's health department, said Dr. Leonard Emma, a gynecologist at Victory.

In the meantime, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest will be putting even more pressure on state officials to straighten out Victory Memorial's future, and prevent any more stressful situations for its patients.

"This has certainly taken the joy of having a baby away," said Mustafa.

City doesn't pay the ferryman

By **Adam F. Hutton**
The Brooklyn Paper

The abrupt shutdown of winter ferry travel between Manhattan and Williamsburg and DUMBO is a result of the city's failure to properly subsidize the service, the president of New York Water Taxi told The Brooklyn Paper this week.

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8:00 p.m.
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Shabbat Service
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Rev'd Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Lecture
12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
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Family history lives at Monte's

By Robert Weinstein
for The Brooklyn Paper

After 32 years of slinging omelets, pancakes, home-fries, donuts and pouring mug upon mug of affordable coffee, the Foops family has finally shut down its beloved old-school diner, the Donut Coffee Shop on Fifth Avenue.

"Most of the places that made the neighborhood distinctive to longtime residents are disappearing," one customer who didn't want his name used told owner Chris Foops, who has been running the store for 10 years, succeeding his father, Nick.

That nameless customer wasn't the only one sad to see the donut diner go. All day long on Friday, regulars stopped by to sit at the counter for one last cup of joe and plenty of memories.

"Chris gave me my first cup of coffee," said Steven LaPolito, who



Monte's Venetian Room on Carroll Street claims to be the oldest Italian restaurant in Brooklyn.

has lived around the corner from the shop since 1977.

His defining moment in the shop came not long afterwards when Nick recognized him right away.

"Three eggs over, whole wheat, home fries," he said to me," LaPolito said. "This place had roots. It dug in."

Another customer who had been coming to the shop even before the Foopses bought it stuck his head in the door and screamed in, "You're the best. The best!"

Meanwhile, others took to the Internet to lament the loss to the neighborhood.

"I am sad, sad, sad that another nice old place with simple foods and no \$4 latte, is closing," one anonymous blogger wrote on Brooklynometry. "All I can say is there goes the neighborhood."

But Donut Coffee Shop was more than just a respite from the Teal Lounges, the Cocoa Bars, the Al Di Dinos of Park Slope. For

LaPolito, Donut wasn't merely a cheap diner, but a place that "connected him to the neighborhood" — at least the one in his memories.

Another customer, a Brooklyn psychologist who had been a regular for seven years, empathized with LaPolito, but noted the number of new shops that have been able to root out their own niches. She discussed how difficult it is for communities to have growth and keep the businesses that make them unique.

"It's what makes 'gentrification' a bad word," she said.

Perhaps, but gentrification is not the villain here. The Donut Shop — and its neighbor, the pan-Latino restaurant Bess — is not closing because of a rent hike or a loss of clientele, but because it being absorbed into the Associated grocery store as part of an expansion of that hardly upscale food market.



RoseAnne DeRupo holds photos of her grandfather Frank DeRupo who arrived at Ellis Island 100 years ago.

The demise of Park Slope's Donut

By Mike McLaughlin
for The Brooklyn Paper

As we reported last week, Monte's Venetian Room isn't the oldest Italian restaurant in Brooklyn — but it was certainly old enough for a venera-

ble Italian-American family that wanted to commemorate the centennial of its patriarch's arrival in America.

About 56 members of the DeRupo clan ate, drank and made merry at the 101-year-old

restaurant last Sunday to celebrate the late Franco DeRupo's migration to the United States one hundred years ago last month.

"We picked Monte's because it was one block from where he

was," said RoseAnn DeRupo, Franco's granddaughter. Franco first resided on President Street and Third Avenue in 1907, near the Italian restaurant on Carroll Street, which opened the year before.

Monte's was all too happy to oblige — and not only to burnish its reputation as the borough's most-ancient eatery.

"We welcome all the old-timers from Brooklyn. We wish we had more of them left," said Frank Ferri, a longtime waiter at Monte's.

"It's quite a coincidence that he lived right around the block and arrived one year after we opened."

Although Franco was poor in those early years, RoseAnn imagines that he might have had at least one Neapolitan meal at Monte's.

Like many of his generation, Franco was a longshoreman at Bush Terminal.

He died prematurely at age 50 in 1940, and many of the details of his life are not known, especially before he landed at Ellis Island and moved to Riverdale, has been piecing



The tiny Donut Coffee Shop is closing so a supermarket can expand.

"The story is this: My grandfather was an orphan and the family never knew much about him," said RoseAnn, who was born after his death.

RoseAnn, who was raised in Carroll Gardens, but now lives in Riverdale, has been piecing

the fragments together.

She found a copy of his Italian passport as well as the manifest from the ship that transported him to America — the Lusitania — and learned that he arrived in New York knowing no one and with only \$12 to his name (which was spelled DeRupo on the manifest, by the way).

"Each little piece of information has led to another piece of information."

Her next hope is to hear from the orphanage near Naples that raised Franco.

In spite of the holes in his record, one of Franco's traditions that had passed down

through the generations was revived on Sunday.

Whenever the family had guests, "He always put a couple of drops of red wine on the white tablecloth to make sure nobody worried about spilling anything," said RoseAnn.



Effie Pahos pours a final cup of Joe.



Loyal customers line the counter for one final meal on the closing day of Donut Coffee Shop.

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Fatal stabbing in Bay Ridge

By Joe Jordan and
Michael Giardina
for The Brooklyn Paper

68th Precinct

A 39-year-old man was fatally stabbed by his 29-year-old roommate on Dec. 26 in their Fifth Avenue apartment building, cops said.

Neighbors said they watched in horror as the victim was repeatedly stabbed at 11:10 pm in the lobby of the building, which is between 87th and 88th streets.

The suspect, whose sister had been dating the victim, was caught in bed by police shortly after the attack, cops said.

2 banks robbed
Two Fifth Avenue banks were robbed last month — and in the most-recent case, the bandit got away with more than \$4,000.

The latest crime occurred on Dec. 23, when a man entered the Commerce Bank at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 82nd Street at around 2:45 pm and claimed to be wearing explosives.

Given such a warning, tellers handed over \$4,164, police said.

Two days earlier, a ski-mask-wearing bandit stormed into the new Alma Bank on Fifth Avenue at 6:40 pm and made off with \$392.

That bank is at the corner of 85th Street.

Barman stabbed
A Fifth Avenue bartender was jumped and stabbed in the back for simply doing his job on Dec. 22.

The attack occurred at 2:10 am, when four ruffians — who

had been thrown out of the establishment for being too rowdy — returned for vengeance.

The thugs stabbed beer bottles over the 22-year-old victim's head and repeatedly stabbed the bartender, whose groin joint is near 96th Street.

Beaten not shot
Two thugs brutally beat a man after he had parked his car on Dec. 21.

Cops said the 36-year-old victim turned to the apartment, which is at 81st and 82nd streets, at around 5:15 pm to find that someone had stolen \$22,000 worth of jewelry and a camera.

No shopper safe
A 33-year-old man was pummeled over the head with a beer bottle by a deranged man in a Fifth Avenue grocery store on Dec. 23, police said.

The victim told police that the 320 am attack in the bodega, which is between 83rd and 84th streets, came out of nowhere. He suffered lacerations.

62nd Precinct
Elderly rob
The apartment of an elderly Crosey Avenue couple was robbed of cash and jewelry while

68/62 BLOTTER

Smoked out

A Bath Avenue bodega had its cash register stolen by thugs, who were later caught by police, thanks to the description given by store owner.

The thief entered the grocery store, which is near Bay 29th Street, at around 2 am on Dec. 21 and asked for cigarettes.

When the owner turned around to find the smokes, the thug snatched the register, which contained \$900, and fled the store, police said.

The perp and his getaway driver were later caught by police with the cash register still on them, cops said.

Mini-mart rob
A man was robbed by gang of thugs as he was shopping in a New Utrecht Avenue bodega on Dec. 21.

The 18-year-old was in the store, which is near 76th Street, at around 8:50 pm when the group pushed him to the back of the store and forced him to empty his pockets. The thieves

ran off with his leather wallet, which contained \$100, and his ID, police said.

Parking melee
A woman had her purse snatched and was pushed to the ground as she was walking on West Sixth Street on Dec. 20.

The 25-year-old was near Avenue O at around 3:10 am when the perp approached. As soon as he grabbed the purse, which contained \$150, credit and debit cards, the victim ran off in hot pursuit of her thief, police said.

But her efforts fell short. The perp pushed his victim to the ground, then fled in the get-away car.

Toys 'R' robbery
A woman had her purse snatched as she was doing some Christmas shopping in a Bay Parkway toy store on Dec. 20.

The 33-year-old was in the store, which is near Crosey Avenue, at around 8 pm. She left her purse on the shopping cart as she browsed the aisle.

When she returned, her bag was gone. The thief had run off with the pocketbook, which contained an unknown amount of cash, along with her credit and debit cards, police said.

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The Brooklyn Paper in Brooklyn, Iowa

Brooklyn, IOWA!

Brief history of our sister city

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

BROOKLYN, IOWA — We share a name — but actually, we really don't.

The Dutch origins of the name of New York's "Brooklyn," or "broken land," date back to the 1600s when it was first settled.

But here in Brooklyn, Iowa, the founders weren't going Dutch, or even thinking of the independent city back east, when they changed the name of their town from Greenfield to Brooklyn in 1859.

As current residents tell it, the town renamed itself when the downtown was shifted a half-mile south to be better situated next to the newfangled railroad line. To come up with a name, the mayor went to the highest point to peer out over the landscape. After observing that the town sat between two small rivers, he reportedly said, "There's a brook over there and a brook over there, and all this land in the middle. We should be called 'Brookland.'"

The name was shortened to the better-sounding "Brooklyn," and the rest is, well, not history so much as time passing.

Brooklyn prospered for the usual reason that a Midwestern town prospers: luck. The first lucky break came when the town found itself on the main stagecoach route between Dubuque and Des Moines.



The old Manatt house (above) was saved when residents raised \$52,000 in one month.

Next, the railroad line was built, ushering in a long era of prosperity that resulted in a gorgeous (now vacant) Victorian hotel and a large (now vacant) opera house downtown.

Eventually, Interstate 80 ("America's Main Street") was cut through the heartland two miles south, bringing with it a fair number of curiosity-seekers who pull off the road to see whether this Brooklyn bears any resemblance to the version back east.

It does not. The tallest building in town is the grain elevator.

there are no local police, and there's not even a restaurant (Redbox, the constantly-being-renovated bar on Front Street, has started to serve meals around the middle of the day — but locals are so convinced it won't last that they haven't started calling the place a "restaurant" yet).

Times have been tough. In the mid-1990s, the fanciest house in town — the old Manatt house on Jackson Street — was about to be sold by the City Council for \$1 because the buyer promised to pick it up and drop it a few towns over, making room for a new town library.

Residents got wind of the arrangement and demanded that the sales contract be voided. The City Council said the sale could only be stopped if the residents raised \$50,000 (a sizeable chunk of change in a farming town) — in a month!

The townspeople did it — raising \$52,000 in contributions ranging from \$1 to \$5,000 — and the Victorian home is now the Brooklyn Museum. The new library was built next door.

The Manatt family made its fortune in cement, is the area's

biggest employer, and even today, virtually everyone you meet is either a Manatt or a Kregel — and many are both because of all the marriages between the clans.

A Kregel tale describes how an ancestor punched out (or was punched out by) John Wayne (see story on page 6).

Today the town's greatest attraction is its display of all 50 state flags and quite a few foreign flags, resulting in its designation as "The Community of Flags" (though locals were quick to point out that the highway roadside is often defaced to suggest Brooklyn is a different kind of community).

The display was the brainchild of Alex Werhke, a German immigrant in his late '70s. "There were a lot of flags under Hitler, but after Hitler, no one wanted to see a flag," he said. "But here, the flags are a source of pride."

He added, though, that "ever since they started building casinos in Iowa," the tour buses never seem to stop and look at the flags anymore. "They rush right up to the Interstate now," he said.

Brooklyn vs. Brooklyn

They share a name, but Brooklyn, Iowa and Brooklyn, New York share little else, as our handy comparison chart below shows:

BROOKLYN, IOWA	NAME	BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
The Community of Flags	Known as	The County of Kings
1869	Incorporated	1646
1,300	Population	2.5 million
0.7:1 (215 to 300)	Ratio of Democrats to Republicans	72:1 (815,551 to 113,071)
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn Bridge, Brooklyn Opera House, two bars	Principal attractions	Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn Bridge, Brooklyn Academy of Music, hundreds of restaurants
A new dairy farm is opening	Recent big news	Possibility of a 100-story condo tower being built on Tillary Street Downtown
Big Bear Creek, Little Bear Creek	Principal creeks	Newtown Creek, Gowanus Canal
Water	Principal substances in creeks	Oil, sewage, gonorrhea
One branch, 7,500-item collection	Brooklyn Public Library	60 branches, 5,045,500-item collection
Manatts, a concrete manufacturer, 200 workers	Biggest employer	New York Transit Authority, 47,000 workers

BILL VISITS...

Continued from page 1

"Most likely, [Brooklyn] was just a good place to stop in between," said the local Democratic precinct captain Bev Rens, who claims she helped make Brooklyn's Republican mayor an Obama man.

Rens is so loyal to the Illinois senator that she announced from the outset that the former president would be unable to convince her to switch loyalties.

"There's nothing he could say," Rens said, as 200 of her fellow townspeople filed into the Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcolm school for the Clinton

speech. "I liked him as a president, but he's not running this time. She is."

In his subdued hour-long speech, Clinton showed little of the rock star quality he has brought to other events, though he did get a laugh when he said he had proven his love for his wife by making speeches all day on New Year's Day and missing six televised town games.

But after that laugh line, Clinton was interrupted only a few times by mild applause as he suggested that his wife is the most experienced, most talented, and most likely to survive

the inevitable Republican smear campaign. (Truth be told, Clinton also spent ample time highlighting the successes of his administration, such as job creation and budget balancing.)

"She has been an agent of change all her life," he said, citing work to improve education in Arkansas (which he said was a success) and on the Clinton health care plan (which he admitted was a failure).

"A lot of people say that's a reason to vote against her, but I disagree 100 percent," he said. "You need to know how your president is going to handle failure. ... Your president will not win every day. Just like you don't. ... She got up and dusted herself off and we got the children's health insurance program that insured six million kids, the biggest expansion in healthcare since Medicare."

He suggested that only the former first lady has "the best combination of mind and heart and strength and compassion" to lead the nation.

"Based on what I know about being president, I believe Hillary is the best candidate I've had the chance to support in my 40 years as a voter," he said.

Few seemed to agree with him. In fact, one of the people sitting on the stage to provide a supportive backdrop for Clinton was none other than Joel Rickard, the mayor's son and another Obama supporter.

See BUBBA on page 6



Brooklyn's flag display was the idea of Alex Werhke.

Here's what Brooklyn Iowans think of us

The Brooklyn Paper asked residents of Brooklyn, Iowa a simple question: What is your reaction when you hear the words, "Brooklyn, New York"? Here are their answers:



"I think Central Park. [That's not Brooklyn.] Oh, then I think John Gotti. [He's] more associated with Queens than Brooklyn. Oh, then I guess I think of the Statue of Liberty. But I do have a positive impression of Brooklyn." **Lorraine Willett**



"Lots of people, busy. I think my impression is negative. I just picture all of you people living in small quarters." **Tammy Kriegl**



"My first impression is that it's large and overpopulated. Too fast, too busy. But you're also known for your sports teams — like the Jets. [The Jets?]. Yes. See? I follow things." **Louise Van Ervelde**



"It's big, right? I have some relatives back here, but I couldn't tell you where. I've never been to Brooklyn, but I imagine there are mountains of people and everyone is busy and running around." **Craig Hall**



"The town that the Dodgers deserted! That's all I know." **Ron Wood**



"I think of confined spaces. I'm in a town, so I would have a hard time living all perched up in a heavily populated area where you people do." **Rick McLean**



"I've always heard that it's the largest Brooklyn. I think of a big city with lots of people." **Doris Manatt**

INSIDE A CAUCUS...

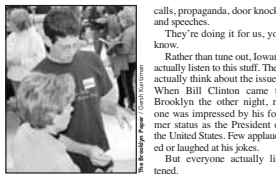
Continued from page 1

and witnessed all the action first hand, I came away a changed Democrat and Democrat.

I had to come all the way from Brooklyn, New York to Brooklyn, Iowa to be proud to be an American.

What I saw on Thursday night was the most basic form of American democracy in action. In small towns all across Iowa, people in numbers fewer than a brownstone block back in New York gathered in school gymnasiums and community centers to do something that all of us should probably do a bit more often: look their neighbors in the eye and talk to them about the issues that matter to them and the men or women they think will actually make a difference.

All too often, voting is not just a chore, but a bloodless one, allowing us the ability to not care for an entire four years, then



Matt Cleiman persuaded Richardson supporter Cynthia Reynolds to back Edwards.

walk into a private booth and pull whatever lever we want, whether we're educated on the candidates' positions or not.

But Iowans are the crash test dummies of American politics. For almost a year, they're inundated with information, phone

calls, propaganda, door knocks and speeches.

They're doing it for us, you know.

Rather than tune out, Iowans actually think about this stuff. They actually think about the issues. When Bill Clinton came to Brooklyn the other night, no one was impressed by his former status as the President of the United States. Few applauded or laughed at his jokes.

But everyone actually listened.

That said, you can't help but leave a caucus — especially a tiny one like the 174-person Democratic caucus here in Brooklyn, where everyone really did know everyone else's name — without feeling that this is no way to pick a president.

After a Vanecko-Roudavash ended up in tears! For almost a year, they're inundated with information, phone

found herself being inundated by supporters of all three dominant candidates, she looked over Edwards' briefing book. Then she gazed over at her friends at the Obama table. Then she glanced at Clinton's cookie tray.

Then she started crying.

An Edwards supporter put his arm around her, but it seemed curio. Then Maggie Adams — the Hillary Christmas tree — came over and gave her a bigger hug. And suddenly, Roudavash was in the Clinton camp.

"I don't know why I'm here," she said. "Hillary's a woman, I guess. I don't know. The experience."

I asked her if she at least liked the feeling of being so wanted, if only for two minutes.

"No, it made me very nervous. ... Finally, with no one else up for grabs, the tables were counted, the cookies eaten, the tears dried, and everyone went home. An exciting day for a reporter. A great day for America.

BROOKLYN PICKS...

Continued from page 1

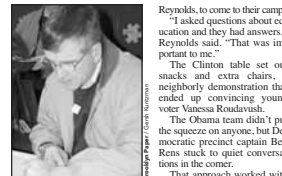
cratic caucus process is a free-wheeling, song- and snack-filled exercise in adrenaline politics.

At the start of the evening, all 174 Democrats filed into the elementary side of the Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcolm school complex. (Republicans were on the high school end.)

Next, supporters of each candidate strolled to one of seven tables — the tables marked "Gravel" and "Kucinich" were completely empty, while Sen. Joe Biden had three people, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson had about a dozen and Sen. Chris Dodd had a handful.

A candidate needed 26 supporters to be considered "viable," meaning that the candidate can win delegates to send to the state nominating convention.

The less-popular tables were quickly swarmed by supporters of the so-called Big Three: Edwards, Clinton and



Republican Mayor Loren Rickard becomes a Democrat.

Obama, who all practiced the timeless art of persuasion.

Edwards table manager Matt Cleiman riled up copies of the candidate's 60-page position, persuading many, including Richardson supporter Cynthia

Reynolds, to come to their camp.

"I asked questions about education and they had answers," Reynolds said. "That was important to me."

The Clinton table set out snacks and extra chairs, a neighborhood demonstration that ended up convincing young voter Vanessa Roudavash.

The Obama team didn't put the squeeze on anyone, but Democratic precinct captain Bev Rens stuck to quiet conversations in the corner.

That approach worked with Todd Linden, who initially supported the unelectable Biden.

The presence of Republican Mayor Loren Rickard — who minutes earlier had changed his party registration to Democrat so he could caucus for Obama — swayed one voter, Doris Manatt, herself a Republican who is now a Democrat.

"Loren's doing that?" Manatt said, when told that the lifelong

Republican Rickard had switched parties. Rickard's switch seemed to validate Manatt's own feelings of betrayal by her party.

"I don't feel we have a candidate I can trust," she said.

"We're seeing a lot of Republicans re-registering as Democrats tonight," said Jan Heetland, who was manning the sign-in table.

They're saying they're just so frustrated with what has happened over the last eight years."

By contrast to the free-for-all the Democratic side, the Republican caucus was more like a shareholder's meeting of a successful company.

A single supporter for each candidate was allowed to rise and give a short speech. Then the ballots were cast and counted, and everyone was able to go home.

The final vote tally on the GOP caucus was more like the final Democratic vote tally was: Edwards, 62; Clinton, 60; Obama, 51.

Brooklynite basks in the warmth of a small town

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

BROOKLYN, IOWA — Brooklynites have opened their hearts, loosened their tongues and served up plenty of ham to their beloved brother from the East Coast.

This reporter arrived on Tuesday after a harrowing drive through snowbound Illinois and eastern Iowa and immediately basked in the warmth of small-town Iowans.

Then again, I came bearing gifts.

Hearing that I would be covering the first in the nation caucuses in the small town of Brooklyn (population 1,300), Borough President Markowitz wrote a proclamation declaring Brooklyn, Iowa "the official Brooklyn of the Midwest" and asked me to present it to Mayor Loren Rickard.

Hizzoner was touched. "That is very thoughtful and I promise to put it in a prominent place," he said.

Markowitz also tossed in a dozen "Brooklyn" pins and a wool ski cap with the name of his beloved borough written out in a graffiti style.

Mayor Rickard wore it proudly to former President Clinton's speech Wednesday night in Brooklyn's public school.

After the speech, I was the guest of honor at a dinner at Rickard's home where ham was



Our intrepid editor, Gersh Kuntzman, near the grain elevators in Brooklyn, Iowa's downtown district.

doled out along with gossip.

In short order, I was filled in on Brooklyn, Iowa's big stories, including the details of a gunpoint kidnapping of the town's

most-prominent doctor in the 1970s (the gun-toting perp was his wife); a fight between Brooklyn native John Wayne (yes, that John Wayne) and local bully Balzer Kriegel over Wayne's given name, Marion; how the man behind the town's famed display of all 50 state flags was actually conceived by a guy who had the monopoly on local flagpoles; and a 1979 love triangle bank robbery murder (alas, that crime was in a neighboring town; there hasn't been a murder in Brooklyn, Iowa, since the stagecoach days).

And then there was the time two youngsters built a copulating snowman and snowwoman. Rickard said he was reluctant to use the powers of his office to remove the display.

"Actually, we marveled at the workmanship," he said. "Besides, it melted."



Brooklyn, Iowa Mayor Loren Rickard views a proclamation sent by Borough President Markowitz in his town's honor.

The Brooklyn Paper in Brooklyn, Iowa



The day the John Wayne got punched in Brooklyn, Iowa

Back then, the Duke went by a girl's name

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

BROOKLYN, IOWA — So who beat up whom — Hollywood legend John Wayne or 8-year-old bully Balzer Kriegel?

Some of the details of the famed 1916 battle between Brooklyn, Iowa native John Wayne (born, Marion Morrison) and tough local farmboy Balzer Kriegel are not in dispute.

Back then, Wayne's father owned the town's pharmacy. One day, Kriegel and his father rode into town in a horse cart,



In 1916, Balzer Kriegel, at right with his sister, Marion, got into a fight with one Marion Morrison — aka John Wayne.

and while the elder Kriegel went inside, Balzer stayed outside and struck up a conversation with the young Marion Morrison.

"What's your name?" Kriegel asked.

"Marion," the kid replied. "Marion! That's my sister's name!" said Kriegel, who really did have a sister named Marion (and, it should be noted, didn't have the most masculine of names himself). "You've got a girl's name."

What happened next is subject of substantial dispute. Some say Kriegel threw the first punch, others, like

Kriegel's niece, Doris Manatt, say the future "True Grit" star answered Kriegel's insult with a fist to the face.

Either way, fistfuffs ensued, but no one knows for sure who came away victorious.

One fact is certain: It was Marion who later changed his name to the tougher-sounding "John Wayne."

"I never heard who won the fight, so I've always assumed that John Wayne won," Manatt told The Brooklyn Paper. "My uncle never claimed to have won."

"But it is the great story of our family, nonetheless," Manatt said.



Is this heaven?

No, it's Iowa! Grain silos make up the skyline of Brooklyn, Iowa, where open space, farmland and grazing livestock dot the landscape.

BUBBA...

Continued from page 5

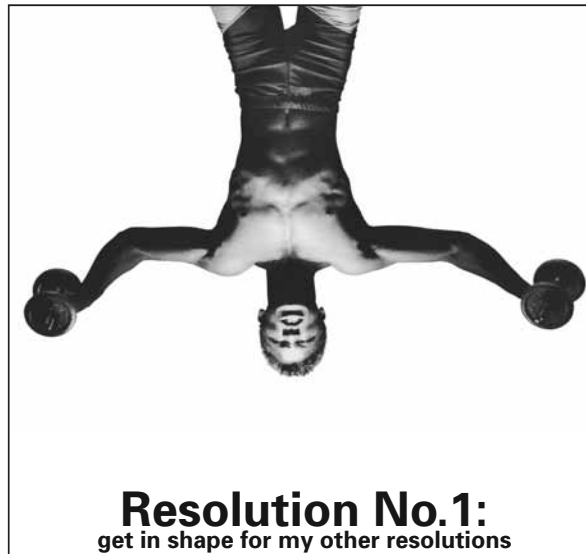
"I do think Hillary would be a good president," the younger Rickard said afterwards, though he complimented the former president for "looking sharp" in a flattering burnt-orange shirt. "But I'm still supporting Obama."

That sentiment whipped through the school gym like a 20-mile-per-hour wind through the Great Plains.

"I still think Joe Biden is the strongest candidate," said Brian Burmeister, who said his main issue is the crisis in Darfur. "But Biden can't win, so I'm going to caucus for Obama. I like Bill, but I like Obama more."

The lack of clapping even after some of the former president's sure-fire applause lines surprised a reporter from the East Coast Brooklyn, but longtime Brooklyn, Iowa, resident Diane Davidson explained that the caucuses are so important that Iowans don't want to waste valuable time with ovations.

"We were really listening hard to what he was saying and trying to take it really seriously," she said.



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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

January 5, 2008

'Luxe' be a lady

Greenpointer's best-seller is deliciously catty, historical teen fiction

By Adam Rathe

The Brooklyn Paper

For most writers, a productive day would be complete without a trip to the coffee shop. For Anna Godbersen, author of young adult sensation "The Luxe," which debuted at number six on the New York Times Children's Books Best Seller list, though, a stop by her local java joint is anything but inspirational.

"I really like working at home," she told GO Brooklyn last week. "I have tried going to the Greenpoint Coffee House to write, but I'm not very good at being around other people. I get uncomfortable and competitive. Everybody has a better laptop than I do, and they all seem to be typing a lot more than I am. It's a sensitive thing being a writer in this world."

And while the borough's coffee shops are often filled with obnoxiously prodigious scribes, it's hard to imagine any who might actually be able to compete with Godbersen's instant success.

Not so long ago she was an editorial assistant at Esquire magazine, ghost-writing young adult (YA) books in her free time. But with the release of "The Luxe," which puts "Gossip Girl"-type teenage antics against a Gilded Age backdrop, the California native is headed into the hallowed halls occupied by giants like Judy Blume, Christopher Pike and J.K. Rowling.

"I ghost wrote a few YA novels and was trying to come up with an idea for my own series that I thought would be exciting — with an element of glamour," Godbersen, 27, said. "There are all sorts of series that center around very rich young people, and that didn't interest me. I thought if I had a historical setting, though, it would be more interesting and would add a new element. And since I know New York, I thought the Gilded Age would be a natural fit. I did research, reading histories of the times, and got really excited."

Burying herself in the archives at the New York Historical Society, where newspapers, fashion magazines, etiquette books and memoirs from the time are all available, Godbersen began working in 2006, developing a story around an old-money family, the Hollands, and the trials they face at the turn of the 20th century. Like any good story — teen or otherwise — there are a slew of villains, rogues, backstabbers and young lovers that, mixed with a breathless pace and a spot of mystery, make for a always page-turner.

For a high-minded reader — she mentioned E.L. Doctorow's "Ragtime" and "Martin Dressler: The Tale of an American Dreamer," the Nobel Prize-winning novel not sounding like "Mistpiece Theater," — God-



Welcome to the club: Anne Godbersen's hit Young Adult novel, "The Luxe," is the first of four in a series about young socialites in the Gilded Age. Her best-selling historical fiction could launch her into the orbit of YA superstars Judy Blume and J.K. Rowling.

bersen has taken to YA writing with seemingly little trouble, perhaps thanks to not reading much of the stuff herself.

"I didn't read a ton of YA books, and going into this, I never imagined myself writing historical fiction," she said. "I think often when historical fiction fails is when it gets really tied up in lecturing on facts that the author has gotten excited about. Doing my own research, I understand why that happens, but it doesn't always fit in the book you're writing. Historical novels also flounder in the dialogue, and I'm not sure I totally succeeded, but I was very worried about not sounding like 'Mistpiece Theater.'"

It surely doesn't. "The Luxe," while witty and catty and all of the delicious things that a YA book read by adults should be, is above all smart and interesting. Upon meeting the Hollands, readers learn that their grand digs on Gramercy Park, however nice they are, don't measure up to the mansions that the nouveau riche are building in the farmland along Fifth Avenue in the 50s. Along the way to each plot turn, a fun fact or two is dispensed, which gives the book an air of authenticity and maturity that sets it apart from others in its genre.

And taking place in 1900 as it does, the author can't help but mention the most important thing to ever happen to Manhattan — becoming part of the same city as Brooklyn.

"I don't have a Brooklyn plotline in the works," admitted Godbersen, "but I should. That time period is so interesting because New York is coming into focus in so many ways... it's becoming one city. It would be



Mourning like its 1899

"They stood still with downcast eyes, waiting for Henry Schoonmaker, who emerged last. The refined mourners could not help a little gasp at the sight of him, and not only because he was usually so wickedly bright-eyed and so regularly with a drink in hand. The tragic irony of Henry appearing as a pallbearer on the very day when he was to have wed Elizabeth [Holland] seemed deeply unfair."

"The horses drawing the hearse were shiny black, but the coffin was decorated with an enormous white satin bow, for Elizabeth had died a virgin. What a shame, they all whispered, blowing ghostly gusts of air into one another's ears, that an early death was visited on such a very good girl."

— Excerpt from "The Luxe" (Harper Teen) by Anna Godbersen

really cool to do something like that."

In the meantime, if she isn't writing about the borough she lives in, Godbersen is at least trying to make her mark on it.

"It feels like nobody's really holding it down in Greenpoint except Kate Christensen [The Great Man: Doubleday Publishing]. The army of Great Brooklyn Writers is very Park Slope. Maybe I should lead the Greenpoint movement."

Which just might be the most historic act that she's taken on yet.

NIGHTLIFE



Out at 'Sea'

Only eight days into the new year, rock group The Shondes — the name means "shame" or "disgrace" in Yiddish — will celebrate a milestone that plenty of bands only dream of: the release of its first album.

"[It's] a fusion of punk, rock and classical music with feminist and Jewish elements as well," said drummer and vocalist Temim Fruchter. "We mix harmonious elements like old-time Yiddish theater with a punk tradition."

And having recently returned from its first big tour, an outing that took the band as far away as Washington state, Fruchter said they couldn't be more thrilled to be parting with copies of "The Red Sea" at Williamsburg's Luna Lounge.

"While it's awesome to tour," the Prospect Heights resident said, "this is where our people are. It's always really exciting, and we're especially proud to be releasing our record here."

With such a feat accomplished so early in the year, what's ahead for The Shondes in 2008?

"We want to spend this year getting our music out there, so we're really excited to physically hand music to people," said Fruchter. "That's the most important thing for us." And there's no shame in that.

The Shondes will perform at 7 p.m. on Jan. 11 at Luna Lounge (261 Metropolitan Ave., at Havermeyer Street in Williamsburg). Tickets are \$8. For information, visit www.lunalounge.com. — Adam Rathe

TV

'Wake' up

With movie tickets costing more than ever — \$11 at the BAM Rose Cinemas and \$9.50 at the Cobble Hill Cinema just to name a few — it's no surprise that Brooklynites are staying home for more of their post-holiday, budget-conscious entertainment needs.

Beginning Saturday, Jan. 5, WNET Channel 13, the local PBS affiliate, will be making it that much easier with "Reel 13," a series featuring a short film, a classic and an independent feature every Saturday night.

"What we really wanted to do was highlight different independent films and create a place for them on the dial," said Executive Producer — and Park Sloper — John DeNatale. "By showing independent films that have never been broadcast, we're giving our viewers a chance to see cutting edge film that they wouldn't otherwise get to see."

And if you're watching from the borough, you might also get to see some of your neighbors. Kicking off the series will be "American Wake," an independent film about two men whose family obligations are at odds with their own plans in life that stars DUMBO resident Sam Anderson (pictured) as Niall, a fiddler whose father wants him to move to Ireland and leave behind his musical career, girlfriend and life.

On Feb. 2, the indie feature will be "Manito," a film shot entirely on a hand-held camera that stars up-and-coming Williamsburg native Franky G. that Ana Ramos, the series' curator, called "electrifying."

Each week's programs will also have the benefit of viewer input. According to DeNatale, fans who visit the station's Web site each week will select the short films. And with no end date in sight — "Reel 13" will be every Saturday night from here until the end of time," DeNatale said — that means plenty of chances to see exactly what you want, and to save that \$11 for juju fruits, popcorn and Snuggles.

The new season of "Reel 13" debuts on Channel 13 on Saturday, Jan. 5 with "The Paper Chase" at 9 p.m. and "American Wake" at 11 p.m. For information, visit www.thirteen.org. — Adam Rathe

BOOKS

"The Luxe" (Harper Teen, \$14.95) is available at Barnes and Noble (267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope). For information, visit www.harperteen-theluxe.com.

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— Tina Barry, The Brooklyn Paper

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digesting 2007

A fond look back at a year of indulging in bacon and booze in Brooklyn's restaurants

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Paper

Let it be known that 2007 was the year of the cocktail in Brooklyn. Lists of "elirins" concocted by "mixologists" were as important as more important sometimes — than the entrees. (The entrees, by the way, are yielding to small plate dining that evolved from the once trendy — and still popular — tags.)

During my travels throughout the borough this year, I consumed "goji" berries, tea-infused desserts, pork belly (yes, still) and more bacon than I care to admit.

The quest for the perfect burger continues, and while Brooklyn didn't see the spate of chef-driven steaks, the way Manhattan did, it's appeared on nearly every menu I opened.

I now know the names of the farms — and sometimes the farmers — which raised the animals I devoured, too. It looks like the desire for meat isn't abating, so diners were soothed with the knowledge that their savior once survived on a small local farm and was treated ethically.

Below are highlights from my 2007 dinners. You'll find honorable mentions and goodbyes to several places I'll miss.

It's not like Brooklyn Heights is teeming with great restaurants, so when one comes along that has everything working for it, people notice. **Le Petit Marche** is the whole package: a great location, a room that channels a French bistro — yet isn't kitschy, and owners who are friendly without being overbearing and know how to train wait staff.

And there was that chef. One cold night last winter, Robert Weiner fed me onion soup — with a broth so intense and onions so caramelized — it brought tears to my eyes. Then there was a lamb shank with rosemary-scented white beans and a bouillabaisse that put other 2007 renditions of this dish to shame.

I'd hope that the new chef, Dominick Rappa, is equally talented. I don't live in Greenpoint, so I haven't tried the breakfast fare at **Brooklyn Label** that the locals rave about. However, I can tell you that if I were to die tomorrow, I'd want owner and chef Cody Utzman's "Old Man" tonight. This version, with large, al dente pasta shells, cheddar, Gruyere and Parmesan is pungent and salty, mellow and sharp, everything this dish should be. His pineapple-upside-down cake made me happy, too. Add that to your list of "last night on earth" desserts.

Melt in Park Slope has had hips on its radar with chefs coming and going. The latest to make his mark is Patrick Landberg, who blends Swedish restraint with a flair for flavor combinations.

The evidence: truffle-dusted gnocchetti scattered with tiny cubes of pancetta; tuna tartare in lemon vinaigrette paired with a smear of hot mustard; and the heat and tingle of star anise turned vanilla panna cotta into something special.

Charlie Statelander shook up the well-liked, but staid, **Cafe on Clinton** in Cobble Hill when he bought the place and revamped the menu. Last spring, Statelander served me seven courses of little pleasures, the greatest being confit of duck leg with mahogany skin and meat so juicy it



The chef at Le Petit Marche in Cobble Hill. Photo by Tina Barry for The Brooklyn Paper.



The chef at Le Petit Marche in Cobble Hill. Photo by Tina Barry for The Brooklyn Paper.

we are the champ-lans: (Clockwise from top) A few of the restaurants that made our competitive "best of '07" roundup are Greenpoint's Brooklyn Label, Prospect Heights's Cheryl's Global Soul, and Dumbo's Hecho En Dumbo.

cooled. The chef cut the richness of the fowl with a barely sweet, palate-tickling pomegranate sauce. When I have a yen for duck, I'm going back. I returned to the Dumbo Burger, a restaurant-cum-casual, a must-have for human Elton John's cocktail as chef Daniel Menia's small bites or "antipasto." The "tequila con sangria" was like a deconstructed Bloody Mary but better: One shot glass held smooth tequila, the other a tomato juice smother given by "Valentina," a traditional Mexican hot sauce. A must-have — if your palate isn't scorched by the booze — is a serving or two of "burrito de ros," a small, crisp burrito filled with rare, wine-brained steak and caramelized onions.

I liked the "cozy cave around the way" in Prospect Heights where Cheryl's Smith plays "global fusion" cuisine. At **Cheryl's Global Soul**, she bounces around the planet with a Thai dish here and French dish there. All the plates were assured, yet she hit the mark when she landed in Japan with "sake-glazed salmon." The alcohol rippled the skin and added a welcome bitter note to the deeply flavored fish.

On the edge of Prospect Heights and Park Slope is **Flatbush Farm**, where chef Eric Lind served an appealing mix of country fare, like lamb stew and stuffed cabbage, in this quirky urban setting. His crisp chicken livers over roasted onions weren't delicate, but the livers' crusty exterior and creamy centers and those sweet onion slices made a devastating pair. It hardly mattered what I ate though, after gulping down the "antipasto," "Me" and "Stoney" — a lethal mix of ginger juice and ginger ale, dark rum, mint and lime — the room spun for a minute. (We'll see if his successor, chef Stephen Brown, is having an equally intoxicating effect on diners.)

Farwell Friends
Amelia's Ristorante in Bay Ridge: Ken, let me know where you're cooking. And if you're cooking "vibello e granchio alla Maderia" (veal medallions with crabmeat, asparagus and lobster sauce), let me know tonight.

Snook's in Park Slope: When I wanted a good stiff drink and food, I didn't want to distract from conversation with a friend, Snook's hit the spot.

Spirito in Park Slope: The space on Ninth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues must be jinxed. That's the only reason why a place with good, rustic Italian fare, charming



Delicious memories: At Park Slope's Moim restaurant, the steak tartar was served up with Asian pears and pinenuts.

I gave a few new Korean places a try. **Moim** in Park Slope was the best in the regards. Chef-owner Saori Uyoo Park's refined menu puts a light, modern touch on classic fare. Her "pajun," a lace-like pancake, was airy and chewy and stuffed with briny shrimp and scallops. The "dub bu kim chi" layered tender pork slices in a vibrant spicy sauce over silky tofu and pungent stir-fried cabbage, and crumbly black sesame seeds glittered like tiny jet beads over the dish.

Bahija Elmorabit's Fez Cafe in Windsor Terrace is the quintessential ethnic neighborhood place: cozy and welcoming with a terrific chef in the kitchen. Elmorabit's slow-cooked lamb tajine defines this dish; too, the meat is tender and deeply flavored, while the eggplant and tomatoes are perfumed with garlic, fresh bay and Moroccan saffron. With a steaming cup of mint tea, an evening there left a memory to savor.

Honorable mentions
The "toasted almond" at Cobble Hill's **Bocca Lupo** starts with a lull of innocent whipped cream, then takes a detour right into hangover hell with a concoction of Kahlua and vodka; the saltiest, crispiest fries and freshest onions are available at **Sidcar** in Park Slope; intense "chocolate espresso bread pudding" can be found at Park Slope's **Appros Cafe**; the lobster rolls served at **Fish Tales** in Carroll Gardens and **Brooklyn Fish Camp** in Park Slope lived up to their lofty reputations; the delicate, silky house-made tofu is a must at Hibino in Cobble Hill; and I'm happy to report that the hot dogs at **Nathan's** in Coney Island are still delicious, salty and spicy.

The most fun
In early June, I joined 21 adventurous eaters at a dinner sponsored by the **Brooklyn Food Group**. It was very weird, with the names of the hosts reduced to "Ben" and "Molly," and the address of the gathering undisclosed until a "member" logs on to register. There were plenty of good eats among the five courses, but the room full of strangers, joined together for the love of food, trumped any other place.

Le Petit Marche (46 Henry St., between Cranberry and Atlantic Aves. in Brooklyn Heights) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$16-\$22. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. Brunch is served on weekends, from 10 am to 3 pm. For more information, call (718) 622-3276 or visit www.lepetitmarche.com.

Hecho En Dumbo (at the Dumbo General Store, 100 South Street, between Washington and Adams streets in Dumbo) accepts cash only. Entrees: \$8-\$17. Dinner is served Monday through Saturday. Subway: F to York Street, A to C to Street. For more information, call (718) 855-5288 or visit www.hechoendumbo.com.

Melt (440 Bergen St., between Flatbush Avenue and Park Slope) accepts MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$16-\$22. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. Brunch is served on weekends, from 10 am to 4 pm. Subway: 2 to Bergen Street. For more information, call (718) 230-9925 or visit www.meltnyc.com.

Moim (206 Garfield Pl. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$16-\$22. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. Brunch is served on weekends, from 10 am to 4 pm. Subway: 2 to Bergen Street. For more information, call (718) 499-8092 or visit www.moimrestaurant.com.

Amelia's Ristorante in Bay Ridge: Ken, let me know where you're cooking. And if you're cooking "vibello e granchio alla Maderia" (veal medallions with crabmeat, asparagus and lobster sauce), let me know tonight.

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Spirito in Park Slope: The space on Ninth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues must be jinxed. That's the only reason why a place with good, rustic Italian fare, charming

owners and rooftop dining, where a waiter sang an aria to me, would close.

Royal's Downtown in Carroll Gardens: Location foiled this ambitious place. It wasn't the food.

The Plant in Dumbo: It was the Food. For 2008: Forks at the ready. Now eat!

Garden offers a class, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. 100 Washington Ave. Call for fee info and for pre-registration. (718) 623-7220.

AUTHOR TALK: New York Times Series: "Disease in a World Without Boundaries." Times science reporter Denise Grady and Dr. Denise M. Fitzgerald of West Cornell Medical College discuss the mobility of microbes. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch, Grand Army Plaza (718) 230-2100. Free.

ARTIST RECEPTION: Snuck Mellon presents "It's 92: Phase II," an exhibition series that focuses on installation art. 5 pm to 8 pm. 92 Plymouth St. (718) 834-0761. Free.

SUN, JAN 13
PERFORMANCE
BARGEMUSE: Classical music program features works by Bach, Shostakovich and Arensky. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. 300 students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Ferry. Call for ticket info. (718) 624-2083.

BAM: Happy Days. 3 pm. Sat-Sun, Jan. 12. **OTHER**
COOKING CLASS: The Center for Koshier Culinary Arts presents a class in the creation of Edible Flower Bouquets. Master Chef James Parker will teach how to make floral bouquets out of everyday fruits and vegetables. \$175. 9 am to 12 pm. 1407 Coney Island Ave. (718) 692-2445.

PLATFORM: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture offers a talk, "Frederick Douglass: A Constant Struggle: The Legacy of Charles Howard." 11 am. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2772. Free.

LIST YOUR EVENT...
To list your event in **99 Days in Brooklyn**, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by e-mail: calendar@brooklynpaper.com; by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Suite 424, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 634-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

9 DAYS...
Continued from page 2

BAM Theater: "Happy Days." 7:30 pm. See Sat., Jan. 12.

THURS, JAN 10
CANCER SUPPORT: Hosted by New York Methodist Hospital. 2 pm to 4 pm. Methodist Hospital Conference Room, 506 South St. (718) 780-3572. Free.

OPENING RECEPTION: The Brooklyn Historical Society presents "Lost in Translation: South Brooklyn, Williamsburg and Coney Island." Photographs taken by Brooklyn high school students are on view. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. 1000 Atlantic Ave. Call for fee info and pre-registration. (718) 623-7220.

LECTURE SERIES: Linda Legendre Series in Green Park. "An Evening with: The Alligators in the NYC Sewers?" Come discuss your favorite Urban Legends. 6 pm. Fort Greene Park, enter park at Washington Park and Willoughby Street. Free.

PLANT TALK: Brooklyn Botanic Garden features a talk on how to grow and care for landscape plants. 6 pm to 9 pm. 1000 Atlantic Ave. Call for fee info and pre-registration. (718) 623-7220.

JAZZ NIGHT: with the Cynthia Sayer Trio. 8:30, 10:30 students. Bargemuse, Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Ferry. Call for ticket info. (718) 624-2083.

BAM: "Happy Days." 7:30 pm. See Sat., Jan. 12. Also, BAM Deliques post-show talk with Fiona Shaw. Free for same-day ticket holders.

FRI, JAN 11
CONCERT: Edward R. Murrow Music Institute presents a concert featuring the orchestra, chamber orchestra, madrigal choir and jazz band. \$8, \$6 in advance. 7 pm. Edward R. Murrow High School, 1400 Ave. L. (718) 258-9281 ext. 119.

BARGEMUSE: Classical music program features works by Bach, Shostakovich and Arensky. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. 300 students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Ferry. Call for ticket info. (718) 624-2083.

BAM: "Happy Days." 7:30 pm. See Sat., Jan. 12.

SAT, JAN 12
OUTDOORS AND TOURS
ICE SKATING: at the Wellness Rink. \$5, \$3 kids and seniors. \$6 skate rental. Sessions are 10 am to 10 pm to 6 pm. 7 pm to 10 pm. Enter Prospect Park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 985-8999.

TREE RECYCLING: Bring your Christmas tree to Green-Wood Cemetery and it will be turned into mulch and decorations prior to drop off. 10 am to 2 pm.

PERFORMANCE AND DISCUSSION
SERIES: at the Brooklyn Arts Exchange. 8 pm. See Sat., Jan. 12.

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OUTDOORS AND TOURS
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TREE RECYCLING: Bring your Christmas tree to Green-Wood Cemetery and it will be turned into mulch and decorations prior to drop off. 10 am to 2 pm.

Fifth Avenue at 25th Street. (718) 965-9940. Free.

NIGHT CYCLING: Join Tim's Up Prospect Park Moonlight Ride. 9 pm to 10 pm. Prospect Park. Grand Army Plaza entrance, opposite the arch. Bring a bike with lights, plus warm clothes, including hat and gloves. Go to www.timesup.com for more information. Free.

PERFORMANCE
BAM: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Samuel Beckett's two-person comedy "Happy Days." \$25 to \$75. 2 pm and 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. (718) 634-4100.

METROPOLITAN OPERA: Live transmission of the Met's "Macbeth." In conjunction with the Brooklyn Academy of Music. \$42, \$40, \$30, \$20, \$15, \$10, \$8, \$5, \$4, \$3, \$2, \$1.30. BAM, Rose Cinemas, 400 West 42nd St. (718) 624-4129.

DANCE: The Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents its World of Dance Series with a performance by Russia's Moskovsky Dance Company. \$45, \$30, \$15. Walk Whitman Theater, campus of Brooklyn College, one block from the entrance to the Brooklyn Museum and Nstrand avenues. (718) 951-5400.

BARGEMUSE: Classical music program features works by Hindemith, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky. \$35, \$30, \$25, \$20, \$15, \$10, \$8, \$5, \$4, \$3, \$2, \$1.30. 300 students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Ferry. Call for ticket info. (718) 624-2083.

PERFORMANCE AND DISCUSSION
SERIES: Brooklyn Arts Exchange hosts a series of performances by Ryan Murphy, Krista Willberg, Dura Muter, Shannon Hummel and Dan Corne. \$15, \$8 low-income. 8 pm. 421 Fifth Ave. For reservations call (718) 332-0071.

WINTER WATERCOLOR: Brooklyn Botanic

High 'Wire' act

TV rogue Jamie Hector is a real-life good guy

By Nicole Brydson
for The Brooklyn Paper

"You know, people step to me and they basically say, 'you're playing my life,'" actor Jamie Hector told GO Brooklyn about his role as Marlo Stanfield in HBO's hit series "The Wire." "But thanks for putting a little bit of an intelligent perspective on it, because so many people look at it like a guy from the streets is just not intelligent."

The fifth and final season of "The Wire" premieres on Jan. 6. The show takes place in East Baltimore where drugs and crime rule the streets while police and educators struggle to keep some semblance of order in the chaotic lives of area residents.

Hector's character, the circumspet Marlo Stanfield, a quiet but commanding leader, is an up-and-comer in the city's drug infested corners, a villain to the core but also a prince among those he considers his allies. The Baltimore of "The Wire" could be any post-industrial American city struggling to keep its tax base and repair its crumbling infrastructure.

The similarities that I see [between Brooklyn and Baltimore] are the love and the struggle," said Hector, who grew up on the streets of Crown Heights and East Flatbush. "[In] the culture that you have within East Flatbush and Baltimore, you cover each other, you support each other."

In real life, Hector, now in his 20s, is the youngest of seven children. He described his experience growing up in central Brooklyn as "supportive, and hood," saying that he was lucky to have "a lot of people around me that supported and pushed me, which is what got me to where I'm at today."

Some of those people include his six older siblings, with whom he attended school in his formative years. Later, Hector attended separate schools, which he said gave him the independence to find out who he was. Having so many older siblings "was drama, arguments, but you'd never know if you didn't have [enough], because they were always



Down to the 'Wire': When Brooklyn native Jamie Hector, left, isn't starring on episodes of "The Wire" and "Heroes," he's designing clothes for his Bed-Stuy boutique, Royal Addiction. This ensemble, at right, is part of his spring collection which was featured in October's "Brooklyn Fashion Week(end)."



there to give [to] you, or just do without and have fun doing without."

Although Hector plays a villainous role, the depth of Stanfield's character development is a credit to the show's writers, who allow viewers and Hector himself to sympathize with a murderous drug kingpin.

"His want to take care of his people, those that are around him. I think I can identify with that. Also, his discipline," said Hector.

"What don't I identify with? Everything that took him down the path that he's on: the row houses full of bodies. I don't identify with that."

The new season of "The Wire" will center on the Baltimore media and the problems it faces in our internet age.

"It's going to show the struggles of

the media, and how they have to do more with less, yet accomplish what it is that they have to accomplish," said Hector. "Also, the fact that you can get media online now — so the writers go and they write these great articles, and they do everything they can do, and you can just get it all online [and] you don't even have to pay for it no more — is taking people out of positions, out of jobs."

When he's not overwhelmed with work — he's just taken on the role of Benjamin Knox Washington on NBC's hit "Heroes" — Hector spends his time working with children and is currently seeking a home for his non-profit, "Moving Mountains," which will be an after-school program dedicated to nurturing the talents of Brooklyn's youth.

"That's one thing I do notice about kids: the beauty and truth they come with, what they can deliver. Sometimes the parents are working so hard to put

food on the table, they don't have time to nurture that," said Hector. "So I'm trying to set up an environment for them where that can be nurtured, and they can know they have this skill and improve on it, instead of going through life trying to figure out what they're good at."

A self-described "Brooklyn cat," Hector loves an evening at Night of the Cookers in Fort Greene. "Wire" watchers might also catch Hector moonlighting at Royal Addiction, a clothing store featuring his fashions, which he opened last year on Tompkins and DeCatur streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

It is clear from his personal and economic investments in Brooklyn that Hector's "Wire" character is the antithesis of his real life, community-minded self. Yet, the show's growing audience just can't wait until Sunday to find out what lies ahead for his Marlo Stanfield.

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